

Portfolio

£22,000 to be won

A total of £22,000 is available to be won in *The Times* Portfolio competition today - the weekly prize of £20,000. Yesterday's daily prize was shared between four winners: Mr Edward Petts of Carshalton, Rev R. E. Sibthorp of Salisbury, Mrs Barbara Hicks of Belbroughton, Wores, and Mr John Green of Cranleigh, Surrey. Each receive £500. *Portfolio list, page 28.*

Shultz sets scene for TV clash

Mr George Shultz, the United States Secretary of State, has spent the last two days making public speeches about American foreign policy in preparation for the final campaign television debate tomorrow night between President Reagan and his Democratic rival, Mr Walter Mondale. The tone of his speeches is that he expects the Reagan Administration to be directing foreign policy for another four years. *Page 6*

British officer killed in Gulf

Iranian aircraft attacked the Panamanian-registered ship *Pacific Protector* in the Gulf, killing the British chief officer, named as Gary Brown, and a Filipino seaman. A United States Navy frigate helped to rescue other crew members. *Earlier report, page 4*

Scarman success

The Government was defeated by six votes in the third reading of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill in the House of Lords. The successful amendment by Lord Scarman would make racial discrimination by a police officer a specific disciplinary offence. *Parliament, page 4*

Kremlin delay

The Soviet Union's forthcoming Central Committee Plenum may be postponed for a week, reports in Moscow suggest. *Page 7*

Drugs warning

The Royal College of Physicians is to warn doctors about accepting inducements from drug companies after its investigation of serious abuses. *Page 4*

BP stake

Johnson Matthey shares jumped 23p on news that BP had bought a 3.57 per cent stake. Speculation was growing that a full bid would follow. *Page 21*

Ceasefire goal

South Africa, Mozambique and the Pretoria-backed Renamo rebels are to meet probably next week to discuss a ceasefire in the continuing Mozambique civil war. *Earlier report, page 5*

No time to sell

If you hold British unit trusts, do not panic and sell despite the troubled times on the Stock Exchange. *Family money, page 25*

Jury discharged

A retrial in the case of Dr Keith Hampton, the MP, accused of indecently assaulting a plain-clothes policeman, was in the balance last night after the jury failed to reach a verdict and was discharged. *Page 3*

Prost fastest

Alain Prost and Niki Lauda were first and third after the first qualifying session of the Portuguese Grand Prix, which will decide the 1984 world championship. *Page 29*

United for ever

Bryan Robson, the England football captain, yesterday signed a new seven-year contract with Manchester United, saying that he intends to stay at the club for the remainder of his career. *Page 29*

Leader page 9
Letters: On miners' strike, from Mr O. Beuselinck, and others; Nobel Prize for Literature, from Dr V. Benda and others.
Leading articles: Police accountability; Cost of House of Lords judgments.
Obituary, page 10
Miss Alberta Hunter, Mr Nicholas Harrison

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Opec could sever oil price link with the dollar

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has given itself a week to formulate a series of plans to restore stability to world oil markets in the wake of Britain's cut in North Sea prices - among them the possibility of severing the link between oil prices and the dollar.

Ministers from the Opec countries will start assembling in Geneva next week to draw up an agenda for their emergency full ministerial meeting due on Monday, October 29, but already senior advisers have suggested methods of restoring price stability.

The most far-reaching could result in world oil prices in future being priced not in dollars but in SDRs, the Special Drawing Rights used by the International Monetary Fund and based on a basket of currencies made up of the dollar, sterling, the yen, the Deutschmark and the French franc.

There have been suggestions that Saudi Arabia is planning to de-couple the rial from the dollar for trading purposes and link it with a basket of currencies, although still not giving it full exchange currency status.

Opec is anxious to restore a degree of stability in world oil prices after the Norwegian and British decision to cut prices to below the official Opec market price of \$29 and the reaction of

Abu Dhabi and Nigeria in breaking Opec ranks with unilateral price cuts.

As spot-market prices for North Sea oil yesterday in Rotterdam moved up from a low of \$26 to \$26.40, compared with the new official British price of \$28.65, and Opec spokesman in Vienna said that no other members of the organization were expected to follow Nigeria with price cuts before the full ministerial meeting on Monday week.

The British price cut has led the United States energy secretary, Mr Donald Hodel, to suggest that the true market price for oil is nearer \$25 and the near certainty of an official Opec price cut.

However, all Opec members are aware of the effect on their dollar earnings of a price cut with no prospect of sales rising. For that reason the influential Opec monitoring committee has been examining whether a differential price structure can be introduced, setting a series of prices more closely related to the true market demands, which are already being reflected in spot market prices in Rotterdam, New York and Singapore.

The Opec producers are also aware that because of the strong dollar oil prices have been seen to be falling, but have actually risen by 18 per cent in sterling terms, 11 per cent when calculated in Deutsche marks

and 6 per cent when calculated in yen.

The switch in official oil prices being dollar related to SDRs could have an effect on currencies as well as destabilizing oil prices. One estimate is that it could help sterling towards the £1.50 mark give Britain a more realistic view of the true worth of North Sea oil.

Mr Tim Morgan, of the brokers Montagu, Loebel, Stanley and Company, said yesterday: "The problem over the past few days has not been that oil prices have been falling but that the dollar has been rising. There is a feeling that the dollar has become too volatile."

Nigeria yesterday gave Opec an assurance that it would not make any further price cuts in the coming week.

Professor Tam David West, who cancelled a speaking engagement in London yesterday, said in Lagos: "There is no doubt that Nigeria has been recognized as a responsible member of Opec. As a result of this Nigeria has always resisted acting in desperation despite the harsh economic problems we face, but obviously there is a limit to such sacrifices."

With Nigerian crude directly comparable to North Sea oil in terms of quality there is a certain sympathy within Opec towards Nigeria and a degree of understanding that Britain's price cut left it no room for manoeuvre.

Sterling continues to tumble despite Lawson's confidence

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The pound dropped to a record low against an average of leading currencies yesterday, unaffected by the Chancellor's confident Mansion House speech on Thursday night.

Opposition spokesmen described Mr Nigel Lawson's speech as "complacent". The sterling index, which measures the pound's average value against the currencies of Britain's trading partners, fell 0.3 to 74.0.

Dealers attributed the weakness to the coal strike and oil price uncertainties.

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continued to fall for the first time in the current period of sterling weakness, in spite of the weak dollar. Sterling gained more than half a cent against the dollar to close in London at \$1.1915, but this was more than offset by a three pence fall against the D-mark to DM3.66, and a nine cent fall against the franc to FF11.2275, together with weakness against most other currencies.

The stock market, in contrast to the foreign exchanges, took heart from Mr Lawson's upbeat speech. The FT 30-share index rose 19 points to 83.4, recovering more than a third of its fall over the previous three days. However, the recovery was said to be partly technical

and market conditions remained nervous.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Labour Party leader, described Mr Lawson's Mansion House speech as "incredibly complacent". Mr Kinnock, paraphrasing Kipling, in a message to Mr Lawson, said: "When all about you are losing their heads and you keep yours, then you haven't heard the news."

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats, in an exchange of letters with Mr Lawson over British membership of the television programme of the European Monetary System, described the Chancellor as "complacent over sterling's present position". *Continued on back page, col 1*

Kohl threatened by payments scandal

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

West Germany has suddenly been engulfed by a potentially devastating scandal over alleged payments to a senior Government politician from the Flick Company. The affair has led to urgent consultations involving Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

At issue is the undisputed allegation that Herr Rainer Barzel, the President (or speaker) of the Bundestag and Herr Kohl's predecessor as chairman of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) accepted a total of DM1.70 (£460,000) over a number of years from 1973 from a Frankfurt law firm. The money allegedly was passed on to the firm by the Flick concern.



Herr Barzel yesterday: Refuses to resign.

Herr Barzel has vigorously denied the implication, voiced in Parliament on Thursday by a Green MP, that the money was a pay-off for his stepping down from the party leadership to make way for Herr Kohl.

The allegations are especially damaging because in protocol Herr Barzel is senior to the Chancellor and, if substantiated, this would be the first case of a politician receiving payments not for party funds but for his own use.

The Flick company's payments in the 1970's to leading politicians from all parties have already led to a parliamentary investigation and a change in the law, and in June forced the resignation of Otto Count Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister, who is awaiting trial on charges of corruption.

Herr Barzel is to give a public statement on the allegations to the parliamentary committee investigating the Flick payments on Wednesday. He does not dispute receiving the money, which he says was for his legal advice, but insisted he was not going to resign.

The main worry for the Government is that the allegations are lapping at the feet of Chancellor Kohl himself.

Maxwell buys cable TV group

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

Robert Maxwell, proprietor of Mirror Group Newspapers has bought one of Britain's oldest and largest cable television networks and its advanced technology, for £11m, from Rediffusion, the electronics subsidiary of British Electric Traction (BET).

The holdings include Rediffusion's cable television development centre at Coombe Surrey, a new multichannel cable television network at Guildford and a 14 per cent stake in the television programme company, United Cable Programmes (UCP).

There are 53 local cable television networks licensed for expansion in the purchase, which have since the 1950s been used to pipe normal broadcast television channels to areas of poor reception.

Last year Rediffusion was awarded a licence to upgrade its network.

Mr Maxwell has won his fight to develop a £20m superstore and industrial park on a 18-acre site, formerly the Odhams printing works at Watford, Hertfordshire. *Kenneth Fleet, page 21*

Mentally-ill woman gets life imprisonment for arson

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

A severely mentally disordered woman aged 22 was yesterday sentenced to life imprisonment for arson because, a judge said there was no case for her to go.

Wendy Porter, of New Bradwell, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, said that it was "a scandal that people like this woman have to be sent to prison because there is nowhere else to send them".

Neither Buckinghamshire social services nor the Oxford Regional Health Authority could provide facilities to treat Miss Porter, he said, and the case was one of "despair".

the private St Andrews Psychiatric Hospital in Northampton, has no secure facilities to which she could be admitted.

"We cannot go on funding cases like this in private hospitals for ever and a day," Dr Julian Pedley, the authority's district medical officer, said. "To do that would deprive other patients of resources."

St Andrews, he said, had concluded that its treatment could offer no prospect of success. If the health authority continued to pay for Miss Porter elsewhere, "we would not have money left over to pay for other disabled people who could respond to treatment".

Miss Porter's solicitor, Mr Tom Osborne, said that the life sentence was "harsh in the extreme. We are going to appeal and hope that the Lord Chief Justice or the Court of Appeal will have more weight to find her somewhere suitable."

He said: "It is appalling that we do not have facilities between a prison hospital and an ordinary psychiatric hospital for cases like this. Quite clearly we ought to."

Mr Graham Marsh, director of social services for Buckinghamshire, said that prison was clearly an inappropriate place for a disturbed and disordered person like Miss Porter. The local authority had done its best to help, but did not have facilities for someone whose behaviour was so disruptive.

Miss Porter's solicitor, Mr Tom Osborne, said that the life sentence was "harsh in the extreme. We are going to appeal and hope that the Lord Chief Justice or the Court of Appeal will have more weight to find her somewhere suitable."

1981 when she set fire to a printing works, causing £100,000 worth of damage, and medical reports were given on her psychiatric state.

Verney said that the Department of Health had refused her a place in a special hospital and no other appropriate facilities were available in the county or region.

The health authority had, however, paid for Miss Porter to go to St Andrews on a three-year probation order. In April this year a mental health review tribunal recommended that she should not be discharged. In June, however, St Andrews discharged her and her behaviour deteriorated. Within two weeks she breached her probation order when she caused £700 worth of damage



Bomb victim becomes a father

By Stewart Tessler

Mr Harvey Thomas, organizer of last week's Conservative Party conference who was trapped under rubble for nearly two hours after the bombing of the Grand Hotel, has become the father of a 7lb 13oz girl.

Mr Thomas and his wife, Marlies, have named their first child, delivered by Caesarian section at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, on Wednesday night, Leah Elisabeth.

Sussex police yesterday issued a description of a man they want to interview who was seen by a maid in the Grand Hotel on Monday or Tuesday before the conference. He left one of the sixth-floor rooms where the bomb was placed.

The man is described as

being about 35 with a thin build and brown hair styled and swept back on the side. He had a long pointed beard and a moustache. The beard was groomed and came down to the middle of his chest.

The man was said to be wearing a three-quarter length overcoat and carrying a silver metal case rather like the aluminium cases photographers use for cameras.

Clearing debris, page 2

Powermen vote 'no' to miners

By Glen Allan

Power workers yesterday made it clear to miners that they will not support the TUC's call for "total support" for their seven-month-old strike.

A secret ballot of more than 43,000 members of the Electrical, Electronic and Telecommunications and Plumbing Union has resulted in a five to one vote against taking action to support the miners. Nearly 60 per cent of the EETPU membership concerned took part in the ballot and decided by 20,000 to 3,864 against supportive action.

The decision will come as no

surprise to Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, for he was warned at the TUC Congress in Brighton last month by Mr Frank Chapple, then general secretary of the EETPU, that he could expect no support from power workers.

Nevertheless, it will come as a blow, for with the help of EETPU power station workers, the NUM could have made its strike felt in the form of power cuts sooner rather than later this winter.

The vote by the EETPU

power stations, is a big boost to the Government, which next week faces the threat of a strike by pit deputies.

Last night, Mr Eric Hammond, leader of the EETPU, said: "I believe that it is a rejection of the tactics of the National Union of Mineworkers' leadership in this dispute, a rejection of their refusal to hold a ballot, and a rejection of the organized violence which is changing the face of British trade unionism for the worse. Finally, it is a rejection of the attempts to use this dispute for political ends."

Broadsword Letter, page 2

How the NUM controls deployment of pickets

By Rupert Morris

Minutes of a meeting of the National Union of Mineworkers that have come into the hands of *The Times* confirm the way in which major picketing in the dispute is coordinated.

The work is done by a National Control Centre, manned 24 hours a day, at the NUM headquarters in Sheffield.

Staff co-ordinate information on coal movements and supply a strategic link between the union's areas.

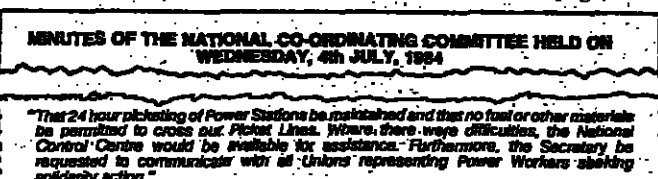
Of the 35 to 40 full-time staff in Sheffield, at least two, sometimes assisted by members of the executive, usually man

the centre on a rota basis. The centre is on the eleventh floor of the building, and contains maps and several telephones. Journalists and television cameras have not been welcome in the office.

Although precise movements of pickets are decided by individual areas, this is based on information from the National Control Centre and, in turn, each will inform the centre of its dispositions.

If, for instance, an NUM member were to receive information about plans to import

Continued on back page, col 3



The document showing how pickets are coordinated.

Inside

Winning words

An extract from Anita Brookner's novel about a romantic writer which won the Booker-McConnell Prize for fiction. *Page 8*



My Perfect Day

Angela Huth muses - and chooses Wiltshire in May. *Page 11*

Oh Mother!

Judy Froshaug on the embarrassments of school days. *Page 16*



A race apart

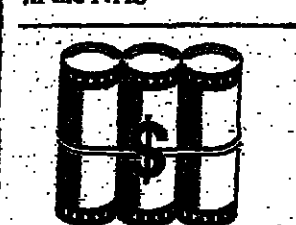
Preview of tomorrow's Portuguese Grand Prix which will decide the Drivers' World Championship. *Page 29*

Monday

Decaying service

NHS

First of a three-part series on the state of dentistry in the NHS.



Star Chamber

The Hollywood elite have issued so many lawsuits against each other it is becoming a multi-million dollar industry.



... you could be totally dependent on someone else for the rest of your life - and probably you would never even speak.

RNID's Deaf/Blind Centre in Bath cares for Stephen and other youngsters like him. It gives them a home, for the present at least, but such care costs a fortune - with more staff than residents to meet their needs.

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RNID. The Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

Please send what you can afford to RNID, Room 1, 105 Gower Street, London WC1E 6AH. For details telephone 01-257 2111.

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 1010 UV-Visible Spectrophotometer.

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Woman who shot husband allowed inheritance in first ruling under new law

A battered wife who killed her husband after years of violence won the right to inherit a life interest in his £412,000 estate in a historic ruling in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Justice Vinelott, in the first case to come before the court under the recently introduced Forfeiture Act, 1982, ruled that the widow, aged 62, should not have to suffer further by being deprived of what her husband left her in his will.

The judge requested that her identity should not be revealed "to avoid causing further distress".

The Forfeiture Act gives courts power, for the first time, "where justice requires", to modify the rule of public policy which prevented anyone guilty of another's death from benefiting from that death in any way.

The judge also ruled that the widow, who shot her husband

with a shotgun in September, 1982, during a disagreement over a "trivial incident", should also inherit absolutely his half-share of their £85,000 home.

At her trial, she was sentenced to two years' probation, after pleading guilty to manslaughter.

Giving judgment in open court after a hearing in private, the judge said that the couple married in November, 1974, when she was 52 and her husband, a retired naval commander, was 63.

During the courtship and for the first couple of years of the marriage there was no violence, but after that, for many years, she was subjected to violent and unpredictable attacks.

In every statement about the killing, she had always insisted that she had never meant to pull the trigger of the shotgun, which her husband had bought for shooting rabbits, and was not conscious of doing so.

"Despite the revulsion any person must feel at conduct

which leads to the death of another human being, it is impossible not to feel sympathy for this widow", the judge said.

"If cases vary in gravity, I think this is one which weighs least heavily. She was a loyal wife who suffered great violence at her husband's hands."

"When she took hold of the gun and released the safety catch she was in a state of great distress. She must accept the blame for what happened, but she should not suffer the further punishment of being deprived of the provision her husband made for her."

Apart from her half interest in her home, the widow was said to have only a car, worth £2,500, plus capital of £2,000. She owed £13,800, incurred in her defence, to her solicitors.

The widow was her husband's only dependent. Other members of his family will benefit from the estate, under the terms of the will, after the widow's death.

Boy 2, wins damages for scald scar

Andrew Mitchell, aged two, of Stratford, east London, scalded for life when his arm was scalded by boiling water at a mother-and-baby club, was awarded £5,000 damages at the High Court in London yesterday. Newham Health Authority, which is responsible for the club, did not contest liability.

The judge, Mr Justice Causfield, allowed him to clamour over benches normally reserved for Queen's Counsel. He told his parents: "No don't restrain him. Let him be happy", and ordered £100 to be given immediately for a present. The boy's parents are to buy him a bicycle.

Hedgehog deal

Mr Phil Lewis, licensee of The Vaults, Welshpool, Mid-Wales, who began producing hedgehog-flavoured crisps last year, has won a £250,000 contract to sell them under licence in Canada.

Dog rescue

Tickle, a Jack Russell bitch, has been rescued by her owners, Mr and Mrs Michael Jones, of Aylsham, Norfolk, after surviving buried in a roadside embankment for 19 days.

Army facelift

More than £100m is to be spent over the next 10 years to rebuild the barracks and hundreds of married quarters at the Aldershot Army base in Hampshire.

MP to marry

Sir Paul Hawkins, aged 72, Conservative MP for Norfolk South-West and a widower, is to marry Mrs Christine Daniels, a widow to whom he was engaged 50 years ago.

Dons' 4.6% rise

University lecturers have been given a 4.6 per cent pay rise backdated to April, with an extra £150 for lecturers at the top of their grade.

MP on gay charge may face retrial

By Michael Horsnell

Dr Keith Hampson, the Conservative MP charged with indecently assaulting a plainclothes policeman in a Soho gay club, will have to wait to hear whether he must face a retrial after the judge in the case discharged the jury yesterday when it failed to reach a verdict.

Judge Butler said that any retrial should take place as soon as possible, but that after the publicity the case had received a fair trial might be impossible.

He said that the prosecution should give careful consideration to the advisability of a retrial.

Dr Hampson, aged 41, MP for Leeds North West, who resigned as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, after his arrest, had pleaded not guilty at Southwark Crown Court to indecently assaulting Police Constable Stuart Marshall in the Gay Theatre Club, Berwick Street, in May.

The jury of nine men and three women had spent five

hours considering the evidence, in which it was alleged that after entering the club Dr Hampson attempted to fondle the police officer during a routine check by Scotland Yard's clubs squad.

Last night the MP's lawyers said that it was understood that the Director of Public Prosecutions would reach a decision early next week on whether to proceed with a retrial.

The jury was sent out to consider its verdict at 11am. At 2pm it returned, when the foreman announced that it could not reach a unanimous verdict and the judge asked members to try for a majority verdict.

At 4pm, when the jury returned to say that it still could not reach a verdict, the judge asked the foreman: "If you have further time, and you may have as much time as you wish, do you believe you will reach a verdict?"

When the foreman said: "No", Judge Butler discharged the jury.

Girl's body in bag identified

By David Cross

Scotland Yard has identified the lower half of a girl's body found in a London street last month as belonging to Miss Suha Hama, aged 15, the daughter of a wealthy Saudi Arabian businessman.

A spokesman said yesterday that two detectives who flew to Saudi Arabia earlier this month had matched footprints on the girl's desk at her home with the footprints in the road. The footprints in her home had been found on the back of the desk where she had sat with her feet in the air, he said.

The remains were discovered in a black plastic bag in Duchess Street, near Harley Street, by two girls on September 7. They were under a Rolls-Royce. The bag apparently had been torn open as the car drove off.

The girl, who was visiting London with an uncle and aunt, had disappeared on August 25. Her relatives, Mr Muhammad Hama, and his wife, Jumana, claimed that they had all been kidnapped by three armed men who demanded £500,000

Finances of earl to be examined

A judge yesterday allowed the disclosure of documents to show the financial position of Lord Cassilis, aged 28. But Lord Ross, in the Court of Session in Edinburgh, refused to order disclosure of documents to show the trusts, business interests, and wealth of his father, Lord Ailsa, of Blenheim House, Kirkcaldy, Ayrshire.

Evidence in Lord Cassilis's divorce action against his wife, Lady Dawn Kennedy, aged 24, will begin on November 20.

Mr William Prosser, QC, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates for Lady Dawn, asked for the disclosure of documents under 21 headings, including bank accounts, business interests, and any trusts in which Lord Cassilis had an interest.

The husband was heir to the title and the Ailsa fortune and this could be worth more than £25m, Mr Prosser said. As Lord Cassilis was the heir the court would be entitled to take into account the husband's expectations.

Seaspeak, a lingua franca for sailors

By John Lawless

The Duke of Edinburgh has given his backing to exporters of the Queen's English, as patron of the first English Language Fair, which opens in London on Monday for three days.

More than 160 language schools, publishers, broadcasters, and equipment suppliers will have displays, and the Duke will present £1,000 to the inventors and publishers of a new version of the English language, Seaspeak.

For sailors and those who work with them, Seaspeak is intended to end linguistic confusion. It should enable, for example, a Japanese captain of a supertanker to talk precisely to the harbour master of a Brazilian port.

The idea was first proposed at a seminar in 1980, organized by the English-Speaking Union, and attended by the Duke, by a merchant marine skipper, Captain Fred Weeks, of Plymouth.

Captain Weeks has since worked with a linguistic expert, Mr Ed Johnson, of Wolfson College, Cambridge. English was already the maritime world's most widely used language and, by analysing hundreds of tape-recordings of conversations between ships' officers, they were able to isolate those words used and understood by all nationalities.

Mr David Hicks, the union's director of education, said yesterday: "I want you to be at SB buoy for two o'clock" becomes "Meet pilot. Position SB buoy. Time 1400 GMT."

Mr Hicks said that other occupations requiring emergency conversations could have their own versions of English, such as "surgespeak".

Mr Randolph Kent, of Surrey University, has gone to Ethiopia for three months to study how various foreign aid agencies and local officials talk to each other.



Dame Anna Neagle (wearing a Royal Flying Corps badge given to her by her late husband, Herbert) is 80 today. But she does not intend to retire. This Christmas she will play the Fairy Godmother in pantomime at Birmingham and is planning appearances next year. A celebration dinner at the Garrick Club tomorrow will be attended by the French Resistance heroine Odette, a close friend whom Dame Anna played in *Odette*.

Unemployed men 10 times likelier to attempt suicide

By Nicholas Timmins

Unemployed men are 10 times more likely deliberately to harm themselves or attempt suicide than those in work, according to a study by the Medical Research Council, covering a 15-year period.

For those out of work for more than a year, the risks were much higher. Dr Stephen Platt and Dr Norman Kreitman, of the council's unit for epidemiological studies in psychiatry, say.

With official figures projecting a further increase in the number of the long-term unemployed over the next few years, the finding is ominous, they say, writing in the *British Medical Journal*. The study covers parasuicides - self-injury and drug overdoses - using data collected

by the regional poisoning treatment in Edinburgh, for the years 1968 to 1982.

Although the incidence of parasuicide among the unemployed fell during the period, when more men were put out of work by economic factors rather than because of personal problems, their rate of self-injury and drug overdoses remained much higher than among those with jobs.

Only once in the seven years between 1976 and 1982 was the risk of parasuicide less than 10 times greater among unemployed men than among those in work. For those out of work for more than a year the risk was almost double that for those unemployed for shorter periods.

BA urges end of flight curb at Heathrow

British Airways yesterday urged the Government to lift its limit of 275,000 flights a year at Heathrow airport, London, scheduled to come into effect when terminal four comes into operation next autumn.

Circumstances have changed radically since the limit was imposed in 1979 as a condition of planning permission for the fourth terminal. British Airways say in a response to the Government's consultation paper.

Jet airliners have become much quieter with the new fan-jet engines since the ban was proposed, the corporation says. An increase in movements would be barely detectable, and the effect of the ban insignificant.

British Airways yesterday cut its fares for pets travelling across the Atlantic. The outward fare has been reduced by £80 by charging pets at baggage rates.

TV-am decides not to cover US presidential poll

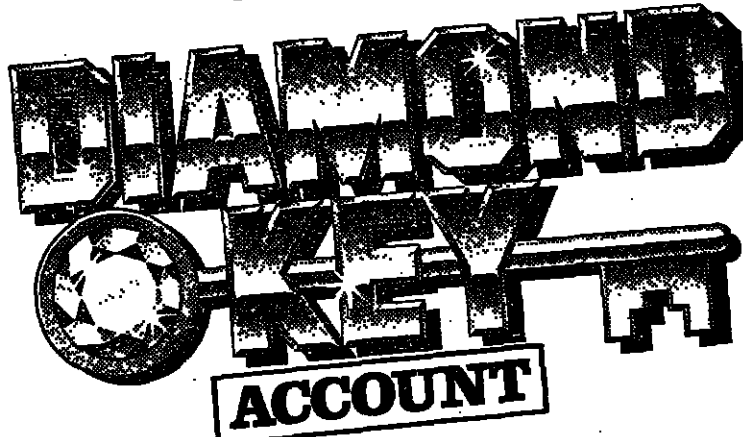
The BBC's Breakfast time television programme will be alone in covering the American presidential election next month. TV-am, the commercial breakfast television station, has declined an offer of coverage by Independent Television News for its programme on the morning of November 7.

ITN is understood to have asked £30,000 for its package.

Meanwhile negotiations aimed at forging a close link between TV-am and ITN in the light of the BBC's superior coverage of the bombing at Brighton last week. The discussions are designed to give ITN a shareholding in the breakfast station. A stake of up to 20 per cent is thought to be a practical proposition.

There is still no settlement in sight of the dispute over pay which has blocked out Thames Television programmes in London and the South-east since Wednesday.

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Media 'handicap' Royal Family

By Kenneth Gosling

Media scrutiny of royalty has become more searching and more public than ever. Princess Anne says in an interview to be shown on TV-am tomorrow. "This makes you guard certain parts of what you consider private, more than you would have done before", she says.

The princess, who leaves on Monday for a three-week tour of India and Bangladesh as president of the Save the Children Fund, confesses in an interview with David Frost that she did not know how to answer her son Peter when he asked at Badminton one year: "Why are all these people taking pictures of me?"

But before she had time to answer, a friend said: "They are not taking photographs of you, they are taking photographs of me". That, Princess Anne said, shut him up completely and he ignored the photographers for the rest of the day.

Media attention, she said, was a great handicap to carry about when it applied to children. "It is easy to grab a moment and it lives forever and it doesn't matter how false it is if it suited the moment."

"There it is for everybody - it will be fixed in people's minds." Asked whether she was more adventurous in clothes and



Princess Anne talking to David Frost.

food, the princess answered: "I think you have to be more adventurous in food if you are going to travel. I think there is a limit to being too insular when you are away. I will try most things."

"I will never be adventurous with clothing, I'm too practical about where I'm going." When David Frost asks if she remembers the first time she realized life was not going to be ordinary, Princess Anne replies: "No. You say that, but how the hell was I supposed to know life wasn't ordinary? That was my life and there was no way of telling it wasn't

ordinary. As far as I knew there were a lot of other people who grew up that way."

Was she more tolerant now? "I don't suppose I am the right person to ask. It probably varies. I suppose the answer is I ought to be by now really."

Her ambitions and plans? "The normal practical things, keeping the draughts out and making sure the roof doesn't fall in and planting a few more trees for the ones that fell down. One's ambitions are very much getting the place as nice as you would like it to be."

"Another one is, I already think I am pretty lucky. I have variety; certainly that I get to do I do enjoy - the ability of being introduced to all sorts of different subjects - and that is a great advantage."

To the astrologer's forecast that she might one day be a great yachtswoman or sailor, Princess Anne says that she quite enjoys sailing. "But I do not quite know when I would do it now, I think it's probably a bit late."

David Frost said: "Well, I don't think the astrologer is very reliable, anyway, because he also said you would have eight children, so I don't think he is necessarily on the ball!" Princess Anne said: "I do hope he is wrong in that case."

Doctors to get guidelines on links with drug companies

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Unethical links between some members of the medical profession and the drugs industry are to be strongly criticized by the Royal College of Physicians after an investigation into serious abuses. The college will issue guidelines to warn physicians away from dubious relationships in which cash or material inducements are offered or accepted, or companies are put under pressure to give funds towards medical projects. A committee set up this year is receiving a growing amount of evidence of unethical behaviour. A report with the guidelines will be published next year. The college is angered and distressed by such well publicized incidents as the lavish entertainment of doctors on the Orient Express to Venice for the launch of a pharmaceutical product about two years ago. The president, Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, confirmed yesterday that the committee has been given an unspecified number of examples of abuse. Sir Raymond said: "We cannot discipline physicians, but we can and will set standards. We feel we are

guidelines which we publish will be followed. "We are not afraid of offending some members of the medical profession or the pharmaceutical industry, and indeed there is no question that some of the behaviour is completely unsatisfactory. Excesses were damaging to the important relationships between the industry and the profession, he said.

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry yesterday published a survey indicating the four out of five people had a favourable view of the industry and its contribution to British society.

Hospital inquiry

An interim file on alleged fraud at Prince Charles Hospital, in Merthyr Tydfil, where thirteen people died after being sent home, has been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions. An inquiry team looking into hospital discharge procedures called the police after hearing allegations that doctors had treated patients privately using national health equipment.

Judge seeks cameras in police cars

A judge called yesterday for police cars to be equipped with special camera equipment to identify criminals. Judge Abdels QC, said at the Central Criminal Court that if a policeman had been able to film armed robbers during a car chase, men arrested later might have been identified. Two men were acquitted of a £24,000 bank robbery, but a third was jailed for 15 years.

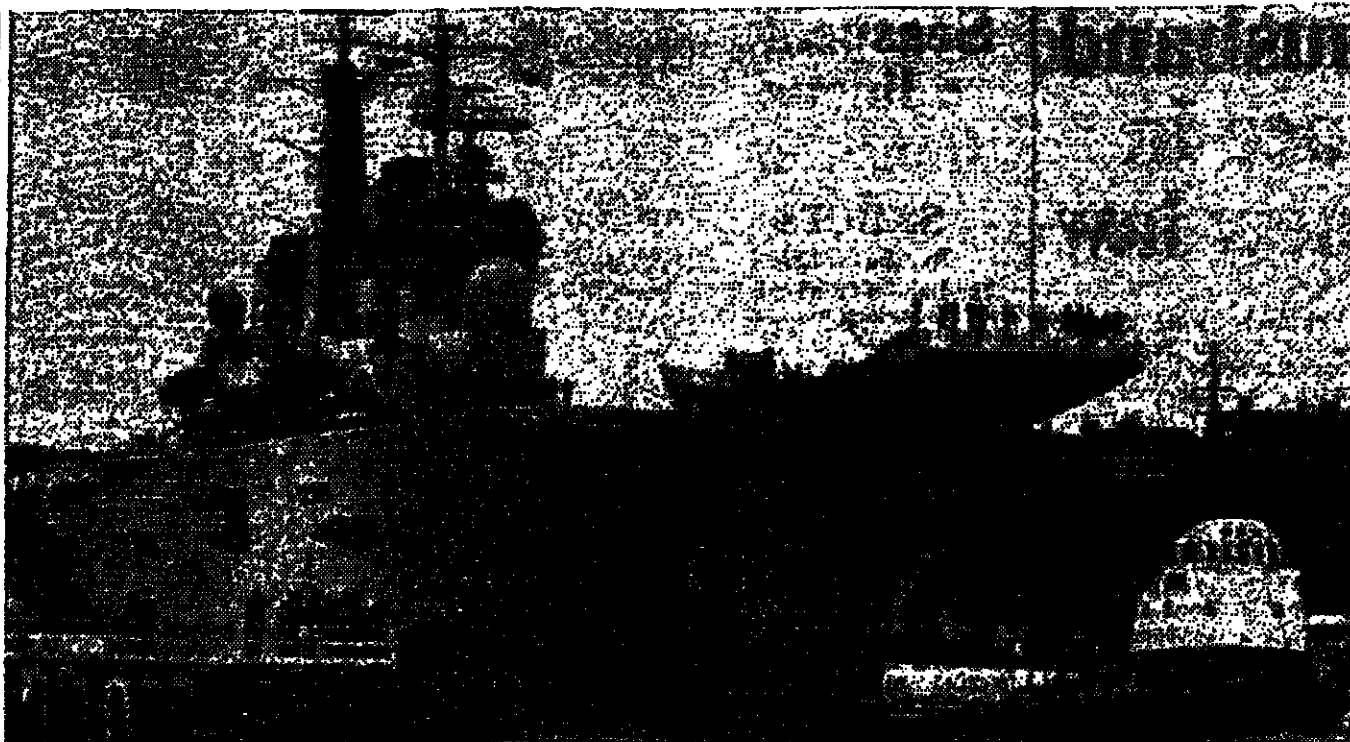
Arthur Rouse, aged 30, of Camelford Court, Notting Hill, London, admitted robbing the National Westminster Bank in Acton last January. He fired a shotgun when a bag containing postal orders was snatched from security guards.

PC David Duff, pursued the gang's van, braving the robbers' gun. He later captured Rouse as he tried to escape on foot.

3 years for attempt to kill ex-wife

A man who plotted to kill his former wife took along his bride of five days to comfort his two daughters while he did it. But yesterday a court heard how Robert Clint's murder attempt was foiled by the second wife, Tina. Preston Crown Court was told that Mrs Clint, aged 35, who knew nothing of the plan found her new husband with a tea towel around the neck of Jean, the wife he had divorced.

After a scuffle the former wife ran out of the house in Wash Brook Close, Barrow, near Clitheroe, Lancashire. Clint, aged 44, unemployed, of Acrefield, Clayton Brook, near Preston, pleaded guilty to attempted murder. Mr Justice Cantley jailed him for five years, but then altered the sentence to three years. He said: "I feel sorry for you".



Ark Royal The Fifth: The new HMS Ark Royal leaving the River Tyne yesterday for sea trials. The Swan Hunter-built carrier will spend three weeks in the North Sea to see whether her machinery meets contract requirements.

Launched by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in June, 1981, the 16,000-tonne ship is due to be handed over to the Navy next summer, three months ahead of contract deadline. She is sister ship to HMS Illustrious, also built by Swan Hunter, but has

some slight differences, including a steeper take-off ramp. Armed with the Vulcan Phalanx anti-missile defence system and Sea Dart missiles, the fifth ship to be called Ark Royal will carry Sea Harrier jets and Sea King helicopters.

Law Society conference

Delays in 24-hour aid scheme

From Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent, Bournemouth

The Government is accused of dragging its feet over plans to create a 24-hour scheme for duty solicitors in police stations.

Negotiations with the Lord Chancellor's Department about the scheme, promised by the Government a year ago and intended to come into force with the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, have been unsuccessful. The scheme would provide the first statutory right for all suspects in police stations to have access to a solicitor.

The accusations were made by solicitors at the Law Society's annual conference in Bournemouth and put to Mr David Mellor, Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, who agreed to take up the matter. Mr Tony Gilling, a member of the society's criminal law committee, said: "We have emphasized to Lord Chancellor's department officials in the most forcible terms that this scheme will not materialize. It is not just that we don't get any answers, the basic principles are not even being laid down."

He added that answers could not be obtained on the costs of the scheme and the payment for lawyers working unsocial hours. Meetings over many months had only just produced a starting date for two of the three planned pilot schemes, to begin in January in north Northamptonshire and Birmingham. A starting date for the one in London has yet to be agreed. The pilot schemes are costing only about £3,000, but officials have refused the Society's request for another £3,000 to £4,000 for a feasibility study on the use of a central telephone number through which suspects and their relatives could contact the duty solicitor.

State prosecution service to use private lawyers

The new state prosecution service would not create two classes of solicitor or out independent lawyers from all prosecution work. Mr David Mellor, Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, told the conference. Its core would be formed from those working in prosecuting solicitors' departments and in the Metropolitan Police solicitors' department. About 600 extra lawyers would be recruited to replace police advocacy, he said. "It would be highly am-

bitious to assume one could recruit good lawyers in those numbers quickly in the run-up to the introduction of the new service", expected to begin in October, 1986, Mr Mellor added.

There would therefore be a considerable role for private practitioners, "certainly in the early stages". It was also desirable that they should continue to be involved in prosecutions so that members of the new service did not become isolated from the rest of the profession.

Boy died in gas sniffing blast

Kevin Dowling, aged 14, died from a heart attack in a flash fire during a butane sniffing session in a car with four other boys and two girls. An inquest at Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, was told yesterday.

Kim Anderson, aged 18, from Pelaw, described what happened after she and Lesley Younger, aged 17, from Wardley, got into the car. "I asked the lad sitting next to me if I could borrow his gas and he agreed. Then I went to click my lighter and that is when the explosion happened. A misadventure verdict was recorded."

BBC in five country link for series

By Kenneth Gossling

A £550,000 coproduction deal involving the BBC and at least five other countries has been reached over the making in 1986 of *Origins*, a two-hour "science spectacular" dealing with the growth of human life and intelligence.

The other partners in the project, together putting up more than 35 per cent of the cost, are Sweden, Finland, Japan and West Germany, and the Westinghouse Corporation, which has five commercial television stations in the United States. An unusual feature of the deal is that the other countries involved will have a certain amount of studio time to provide their own presenter and commentary in the style of their own programmes.

The coproduction is expected to help to lift the amount of cash generated by this means in 1984-85 to more than the £6m achieved in the present year; it is in addition to coproduction cash of a further £6m injected by BBC Enterprises.

"These are the sort of high-budget programmes that would never otherwise be made", a BBC spokesman said.

During the week that culminated in the bombing TV-am achieved an audience "reach" of 10.3m against 6.5m for the BBC breakfast programme.

British film year

The British film industry is to spend £15m in 1985 on refurbishing cinemas and promoting the industry in what has been designated British Film Year.

Thorn EMI, Rank and Cannon are spending about £12m on cinema refurbishment, and the remaining money, of which the Government will contribute £500,000 will be spent on promotion. That will include a four-day celebration in Leicester Square, an exhibition at the Festival Hall, and a roadshow visiting 40 British and overseas cities.

US warship to the rescue in Gulf as land war hots up

Bahrain (Reuters) - The US Navy helped to rescue the crew of a blazing Panamanian-registered diving support ship hit in an air attack in the Gulf yesterday a Navy officer said.

Shipping sources said two people killed and several injured when the 1,538-ton Pacific Protector, owned by Swire Ships Cooperation of Hongkong, was hit east of Qatar.

A ship which passed on a distress call from the Pacific Protector indicated that the attack was launched in an area where Iranian aircraft had made several strikes south of the zone where Iraqi aircraft normally operate. More than 40 ships have been hit by Iran and Iraq in the Gulf this year.

● BAGHDAD: After a seven-month lull, fierce fighting was reported between Iraqi and Iranian ground troops as Iraqis prepared to go to the polls today in the first general election since the outbreak of the Gulf war four years ago (AFP and Reuters reports).

The battle in the southern and central sectors of the front, was said to be the biggest since Iran seized the Majnun islands in the swamps east of Basra last March. Iraqi military communiqués on Thursday said the Iranian Army had begun a big offensive along a 12.5-mile stretch of the front at Seif-Saad, about 60 miles east of Baghdad.

According to Iraq, Tehran is preparing an offensive against Basra in southern Iraq with the aim of cutting the international Baghdad-Basra highway and isolating the Iraqi capital from the rest of the Gulf. Meanwhile, Iraqis were preparing to elect the 295 members of the country's Parliament, the National Council. All the 950 candidates have been approved by the Baath Socialist Party which has been in power for 14 years.

Sri Lankan judge tells of threats

From Our Correspondent Colombo

Mr Neville Samarakoon, Sri Lanka's Chief Justice, retired yesterday after a prolonged Government ban on him to move him from office. He spoke of a campaign intended to intimidate the judges of the country's Supreme Court.

In recent weeks, the Chief Justice has been appearing before a select committee of Parliament in connection with a resolution submitted by 57 MPs asking President Jayewardene to remove the Chief Justice from office because of remarks he made at a private gathering. The resolution said these remarks "were not befitting the holder of the office of Chief Justice".

The Chief Justice reached retirement age yesterday. In his farewell address to the Supreme Court, he said that the 1978 constitution contained provisions for the enforcement of fundamental rights "which had brought in their wake wholly unfortunate and unforeseen consequences. One was a public attempt at intimidation of three judges of this court."

He spoke in connection with the case of a police officer "who was found by this court to have violated the fundamental rights of a citizen."

Lady Young: Fear for Pacific operations

A-ban may hit Navy

Wellington (Reuters) - The British Government fears that New Zealand's policy against nuclear ships may restrict British naval operations in the Pacific, Baroness Young, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said yesterday.

She said after talks with New Zealand's Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, that she hoped British ships could continue to visit New Zealand ports. But she emphasized that Britain, like the United States, would neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons on board its ships.

The Labour Government's policy is not to provide port facilities for nuclear-armed ships, a stand which Washington says effectively torpedoes the Anzus defence pact.

PARLIAMENT October 19 1984

Lord Scarman forces through anti-racist provision

POLICE BILL

The Government was defeated by six votes when the House of Lords resumed the third reading of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill. The defeat came on an amendment, moved by Lord Scarman (Ind), which would make racially discriminatory behaviour by a police officer a specific disciplinary offence.

Lord Scarman said no single step would be more effective in building up confidence among black people in the attitude of the police than encoding this in the police disciplinary code. Relations between black people and the police in Britain had greatly improved since 1981 and the police were entitled to great credit for the constructive part they had played. It was a pity that opposition had developed within the police force to including the offence dealt with by the amendment in the disciplinary code.

It was no answer to this amendment to say that disciplinary proceedings could be taken under the code. They could, but to do so as the amendment proposed would be to make clear to all the world that racially discriminatory behaviour by British policemen was a specific offence. Lord Gifford (Lab) said that if the police and Government did not respond the message would go out to the black community that they were less than keen to get to grips with the problem of racism in police ranks.

Lord Hosenow (L) said they totally supported the amendment. The House would be foolish to neglect Lord Scarman's advice. Lord Misham, for the Opposition, said the fair-minded white citizens of Britain who wanted to live in peace with their neighbours and the decent coloured population of that area who had the same desire were watching to see whether this amendment would be carried. He hoped the House was not going to hear from the Government an answer to the effect that a disciplinary code which covered this matter already existed.

Lord Hylton (Ind) said he hoped the Government would accept the amendment. Lord Elton, Minister of State, Home Office, said they were all determined that racially discriminatory behaviour should not be tolerated in the police. What divided them was how it should be done. If contrary to the Government's advice, the House proceeded with this amendment the effect would be to make all members of ethnic minorities, no matter how many generations they had been settled in this country, inexorably different from the rest of the community because conduct towards them alone was to be singled out for specific mention in the law. "Would that convince the police that all men were equal under the law and encourage them to establish increasingly close relationships with these particular groups? The proper way to tackle this admitted problem was way the Government was tackling it with the tools already to hand. The Government stood four-square behind the intention of the police disciplinary code that racial discrimination should be stamped out. Lord Scarman said the amendment was asking the House to confirm in as emphatic a way as it could to the whole of society that racially prejudiced police action was something that would not be tolerated. It would give the black community confidence that they really meant it when they said they were determined that there should be no racially prejudiced or discriminatory behaviour. The amendment was carried by 71 votes to 65. ● Lord Hylton said the amendment was asking the House to confirm in as emphatic a way as it could to the whole of society that racially prejudiced police action was something that would not be tolerated. It would give the black community confidence that they really meant it when they said they were determined that there should be no racially prejudiced or discriminatory behaviour. The amendment was carried by 71 votes to 65. ● Lord Hylton said the amendment was asking the House to confirm in as emphatic a way as it could to the whole of society that racially prejudiced police action was something that would not be tolerated. It would give the black community confidence that they really meant it when they said they were determined that there should be no racially prejudiced or discriminatory behaviour. The amendment was carried by 71 votes to 65.

Protesters urged to leave

SOUTH AFRICA

The Government has strongly urged the three anti-apartheid campaigners in the British consulate in Durban to leave voluntarily but would not require them to leave against their will, Lord Trefgarne, speaking for the Government, said during questions in the House of Lords.

The increasing disruption to the work of the consulate, one of the smallest in the diplomatic service, was becoming intolerable and the use of the premises to make political statements was unacceptable. The Government had sought assurances that there would be no repetition of the clandestine interview carried out by ITN recently. The statement issued by the three men on Thursday was a further abuse of the premises of which the Government took a grave view and it was urgently considering the implications.

The Government could not countenance any demands from the three men and nor could it accept any conditions for their departure. Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, said the amendment was not acceptable. It would result not only in interminable arguments in court, but also in the exclusion of a truthful and wholly reliable confession because of some circumstances which had nothing to do with the way the interview was conducted. Lord Hailsham of Lullington said he only hoped that one day the sort of reform he had advocated would come about. The amendment was withdrawn.

● An amendment giving added protection to children and young people when making confessions was not pressed. Lord Elwyn-Jones, for the opposition, said that as the Bill stood there was a risk of forced confessions by young people if questioned alone by the police. His amendment called for an independent adult to be present during interrogations. He was supported by Lord Misham (Lab) who said relationships between young people and the police had been eroded. Lord Denning (Ind) said a judge would take into account all the circumstances surrounding the confession of a young person. Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone said if it was true, which he did not accept, that young people were more afraid or averse to the police nowadays, then it was less likely, not more likely, that they would be suggestable. The absence of an adult during the making of a confession would be taken into account very seriously by a jury or a judge so there was already a double safeguard of young people. The Bill was read the third time and passed.



These brutal weapons were among those found by police after violent picketing at the Orgreave Coking Plant and Silverdale Colliery. (photographs Press Association)

COULD A BRITISH GOVERNMENT BE TOPPLED BY WEAPONS LIKE THESE?

The kind of violence which we have seen in the miners' strike is a direct attack on law, on democracy and on decent trade unionism.

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Israel agrees to first Arab-run bank

From Christopher Walker, Nablus

As part of a package to improve the quality of life for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, the new Israeli Government of national unity has agreed to allow the first Arab-run bank to be set up since the area was conquered from Jordan in 1967.

Under the previous Likud administration, ministers opposed measures which could lead to the economic development of the region for fear they might one day serve as the basis for an independent Palestinian state. The change of heart is believed to be linked to the appointment of Labour's Mr Yitzhak Rabin as the new Defence Minister.

Other conciliatory gestures to defuse Jewish-Arab tension include the restoration of Arab mayors to replace Israeli officers administering the five main Palestinian towns, licensing of new industrial plants and a reduction in the censorship of Arab reading material.

Although the concessions have been dismissed as cosmetic by Palestinian radicals, they have been welcomed by moderate West Bank Arabs and sharply criticized by some Likud members of the Cabinet, including Mr Ariel Sharon, a hardline former Defence Minister.

The softer line in the day-to-day running of the 2,200 square miles of the West Bank has been frequently demanded by the Reagan Administration, which

this month again came to Israel's financial aid in an effort to help it to overcome the worst economic crisis in its history. Many observers have linked the new policy with the recent trip to Washington by Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister.

Mr Zafir al-Masri, the former deputy mayor of Nablus - the largest occupied Arab town - confirmed in an interview with *The Times* yesterday that he was part of a consortium of prominent West Bank businessmen seeking the equivalent of £10m (£8.3m) to open the bank, which plans branches in all main population centres.

Surveying the Israeli-patrolled streets from the window of his spacious sixth-storey penthouse, Mr al-Masri, a millionaire and strong supporter of Jordan's King Hussein, told me: "This development is something we have been seeking for years. It will be much appreciated, both by ordinary Palestinians who have had to suffer great inefficiency from the Israeli banks, and the local business community."

According to Mr al-Masri, until the Israeli conquest in 1967, the 80,000 inhabitants of Nablus were served by six competing Arab banks. They have since had to rely on only two branches of Israel's Bank Leumi, which has meant congestion, monopoly power and a much resented regulation that savings can only be deposited in the fast depreciating Israeli currency.

"In the new Arab bank, Palestinians will be able to deposit their savings in the Jordanian dinar, which is a strong currency and still legal tender in the West Bank," Mr al-Masri said, adding that on dinar now exchanged for 1,150 Israeli shekels as opposed to the equivalent of one shekel in 1967.

After the capital had been raised, official permission would be sought from King Hussein to open the bank which would be given a local name such as the West Bank Finance



Man on the right: Mr Ariel Sharon, Israel's Industry Minister, carries the Torah scroll through Hebron in the West Bank to celebrate the religious holiday marking the end of the annual reading of the Hebrew Bible. He vowed that Jews would not leave the town and had no need to apologize for a so-called terror underground in the area.

Corporation rather than a provocative, nationalistic one. In recent years, West Bank leaders have repeatedly complained to foreign diplomats about the absence of an Arab-run banking sector to cater for the needs of the 800,000 Palestinians in the West Bank. Since 1967, all banks operating

in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been closed under Israeli military orders. In response to Egyptian pressure, a branch of the Bank of Palestine was permitted to reopen in Gaza Town in 1981, but it was not allowed to deal with foreign currency nor open other branches. As a result, it had

little effect on the local economy.

Mr al-Masri, aged 43, whose business empire embraces property, soap manufacture and flour milling, estimated that the new bank - under Bank of Israel supervision - would probably open in 1985.

Hopes for Maputo accord still alive

From Michael Harnsby, Johannesburg

South Africa insists that "the peace process" between the Mozambique Government and the rebel Renamo movement is still continuing, but says that no further comment can be offered at this stage because of the "extreme sensitivity" of the negotiations.

This brief statement from Mr Louis Nel, South Africa's Deputy Foreign Minister, comes as reports that Renamo is threatening to pull out of the negotiations unless it is given some sort of political recognition by the Mozambique Government.

Mr Nel is chairman of a tripartite commission set up under the terms of a declaration made in Pretoria on October 3 in the presence of Mozambique Government and Renamo delegations. Its task is to work towards the implementation of a ceasefire in the eight-year-old civil war in Mozambique.

President Samora Machel has made clear that Mozambique regards the commission as a purely technical body and not as a forum for political negotiations with Renamo.

The commission met, in conditions of great secrecy, for several days immediately after October 3, but does not appear to have been convened since. A statement issued by Mozambique's Council of Ministers this week on the negotiations so far welcomed South Africa's decision "to play an active role in putting an end to the violence."

This reflects the belief in Maputo that South Africa, despite the Nkomati accord of March 16, has continued to give covert support to Renamo, which was created by the Rhodesian Government of Mr Ian Smith in 1976 and taken over by the South Africans in 1980.

Britain may renege on sanctuary for Durban protesters

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain is taking a very grave view of the statement by the three political fugitives inside its consulate in Durban on Thursday and is urgently considering its implications the Foreign Office said yesterday.

The strength of its response will raise speculation that the Government is preparing to go back on its promise that the three would not be forcibly evicted.

The statement from the remaining anti-apartheid campaigners who are seeking shelter from a police detention order, included a set of four conditions, at least one of which the Pretoria authorities would have to meet before they left the consulate.

But the Foreign Office replied yesterday: "HMG cannot countenance any demands from the three nor can we accept any conditions for their departure." The brusque rejection was immediately attacked by Mr Donald Anderson, the Labour foreign affairs spokesman, who has just returned from visiting the three men in the Consulate, as being another example of the Foreign Office's weak and supine attitude in the affair.

The Foreign Office, already upset by the clandestine interview which the three men gave to an Independent Television News reporter last week, added in its statement that the disruption of the consulate's work was becoming intolerable. The use made by the three men of the consulate's premises to make political statements was unacceptable.

Britain has sought assurances following the ITN interview that the incident would not be repeated. But such assurances had not been forthcoming.

● **AMBASSADOR'S VIEW:** Dr Denis Worrall claimed yesterday that the Durban consulate was being used as a

base to launch a campaign against his government (the Press Association report).

He said on the BBC Radio 4 *World at One* programme that the continuance in the consulate of the three men was a cause of great concern to his government. "The fact that they have been able to stay on in the consulate is illegal action and it is the fault of the British," he said.

"It is a source of great irritation and annoyance - and understandable annoyance. I would suggest."



Mr Anderson: Attack on "supine" Foreign Office.

● **PRETORIA:** The president of the Southern Africa Catholic Bishops Conference pleaded not guilty yesterday to charges that he had made false statements about security forces, alleging they committed atrocities against villagers (AP report).

Archbishop Denis Hurley of Durban appeared in Pretoria regional court, where the case was postponed until February.

Police informed the Archbishop of the charges in September, 19 months after he said at a press conference that church investigators had been told by villagers in South Namibia about the alleged atrocities.

Craxi to push for industry

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain and Italy will try to push their Community partners into concentrating on industry for a change during Italy's six-month presidency of the EEC council which starts in the new year.

Agriculture was still absorbing too large a share of the EEC programme, Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Signor

Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister, agreed at their London summit yesterday.

With many of the old Community problems solved it was a great opportunity to look to the future, Mrs Thatcher said at the end of talks about industrial collaboration.

In the past 10 years Europe had changed from being a

major exporter of new technology into a net importer, she told a press conference, being outstripped by Japan and the United States.

"It is going to be a long haul to get back the position we should never have lost", she said. It would "require the full cooperation of everyone in industry".

A new anti-tank helicopter, in addition to the EH101 helicopter project agreed in principle, was among the possible areas of collaboration discussed.

On terrorism, Mrs Thatcher, who received a tribute from the Italian press on her cool leadership after the IRA attempt on her life, said that international cooperation was working well as a result of the economic summit in London in June.

But she and Signor Craxi hoped for new initiatives on arms control and in the Middle East after the US presidential election next month.

Mrs Thatcher also emphasized the importance Britain attached to European support in the voting at the United Nations debate on the Falkland Islands.

French try to dispel Algiers fear

From Diana Geddes, Paris

President Mitterrand paid a lightning visit to Algiers yesterday in an attempt to dispel deep disquiet about an apparent shift in French policy in North Africa and a weakening of France's special relationship with Algeria.

Algeria was particularly disturbed by Mitterrand's mysterious "private" visit to Morocco for talks with King Hassan at the end of August. This came on the eve of the referendum on the proposed "union" between Libya and Morocco, and only a few weeks before the surprise announcement of the Franco-Libyan pact for the mutual withdrawal of French and Libyan troops from Chad.

Algeria has tense relations with both its neighbour to the east, Libya, and its neighbour to the west, Morocco, and feels threatened by their new treaty of union. Mitterrand's visit to Morocco at such a sensitive moment was seen as giving an unfortunate stamp of approval to the treaty.

Algeria, which has kept in close contact with both the main antagonists in the Chad conflict, also felt slighted that President Mitterrand apparently should have sought Morocco's help, rather than its own, in France's search for an honourable exit from Chad.

In addition, Algeria is worried about the scale of French arms sales to Morocco, which it feels is hardly conducive to achieving a negotiated settlement in the disputed southern Sahara, where the rebel Polisario Front is backed by Algeria.



Signor Craxi in London yesterday. Switching emphasis to industry (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

US to seek extradition of 3 Britons

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

The United States is to seek the extradition of three Britons to stand trial in Chicago on charges of illegally exporting military spare parts to Iran.

The sale of all military equipment to Iran has been banned by Washington since the seizure of American hostages in Tehran in 1979. The three accused are Mr David Sofer and Mr Howard Freckleton, who jointly operate a London trading company under the name Lyon and Branfield, and Mr Gerald McDevitt, owner of Trans-Aero Components and Supplies, of New Malden.

Two Americans were also named in the 20-count indictment which was filed on October 9. Both have pleaded not guilty.

The Britons are charged with violating the Arms Export Control Act and the Federal False Statement Act. If found guilty Mr Sofer and Mr Freckleton would face a maximum penalty of 78 years in prison and a fine of \$995,000 (£845,000) and Mr McDevitt a maximum of 12 years in prison and a fine of \$115,000.

According to Mr William Cook, Assistant US Attorney in Chicago, spare parts valued at \$44,000 were successfully shipped during a 21-month period

Cambodia pleads for aid to combat food shortage

Bangkok (AFP) - The Vietnamese-backed Government in Cambodia has called for urgent aid to surmount expected food shortages caused by floods and drought.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Kong Samol, said in Phnom Penh that Cambodia needed rice, rice seed, medicine, agricultural tools and fertilizer. Food output had suffered "a

major setback" after being battered by drought and floods in the past year.

Famine hit Cambodia after the December 25, 1978, Vietnamese invasion. A massive international aid programme was mounted to save the nation's estimated seven million people from what some experts feared was the brink of extinction.

Police honoured, then accused of torture

From Harry Debellias, Madrid

A San Sebastian court suspended two Civil Guard policemen decorated last week for outstanding service, pending the outcome of a case in which they are accused of torture, according to reports published in this Baque city yesterday.

Señor Jose Barriouevio, the Minister of the Interior, also presented medals to two other policemen who were later revealed to be under investigation for torture. The ceremony last Friday was on the feast day of the patron saint of the paramilitary Civil Guard.

Also decorated at the same time, according to the Madrid daily, *El País*, were three other Civil Guards who had been acquitted on torture charges.

Italian general arrested

Rome - General Pietro Musumeci, retired deputy head of the Italian secret service, was among six people arrested here yesterday on charges of espionage, conspiracy and illegal possession of arms and explosives (John Earle writes).

The others were reported to be two women and three officers of the Carabinieri.

The general, a Sicilian aged 64, who was a member of the

banned P2 masonic lodge, was detained at his home here at dawn. The magistrate who issued the warrants declined to give details of the alleged offences. General Musumeci's name was mentioned in a parliamentary commission of inquiry's report into the kidnapping of the Red Brigades in 1981 of a Neapolitan Christian Democrat politician, Signor Ciro Cirillo.

China to unveil economic blueprint today

Peking (Reuters, AFP) - An economic programme for China for the rest of this century, agreed by leaders of the Communist Party in a key meeting this week, is due to be released today, Western diplomats said.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said an "important document", believed to be the economic report from the closed meeting of the party hierarchy, would be released to reporters at noon. The broad outlines of the report have already been leaked by the official Chinese press.

The document will put the

seal on the next stage of the programme of reforms introduced by Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's elder statesman, which have already transformed the country's agriculture. It will now tackle China's ponderous and inefficient industrial economy.

At the heart of the reforms is the dismantling of rigid state central planning, a legacy of the Soviet-inspired system of the past, and the construction of a looser economic model.

But Mr Deng has faced a problem in winning over his more conservative colleagues

Arms plane pilot charged

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The pilot of a French DC8 cargo plane which flew to Athens with 7,530 Italian-made pistols without obtaining advance clearance, and the French skipper of the cargo, were charged yesterday with contravening Greek law on the transit of weapons.

The two were set free on bail pending trial, but were barred from leaving the country. Three other crew members of the cargo jet which came from Rome and bore markings of the SFAIR transport company, were exonerated.

The Greek authorities who

seized the plane and the cargo, are puzzled about the destination of the arms, the latest model Beretta pistols packed in velvet-lined crates. The crew testified that the plane had orders to deliver them to Botswana.

The authorities in Botswana have denied that the consignment was expected there. But there were intelligence reports that South Africa had been in the market for Beretta pistols. Charges that the accused were trying to smuggle the arms into Greece were dropped by the Athens prosecutor.

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LONDON WEEKEND TELEVISION

Scene set for Reagan-Mondale TV duel

On southern Africa he said the long-festering conflict in Namibia showed a glimmer of hope.

Tomorrow's debate in Kansas City between President Reagan and Mr Mondale is seen as the most crucial event of the campaign. If Mr Mondale can perform as well, or even better, than he did during the first debate, he should be able significantly to narrow the gap in the two weeks remaining before election day.

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Gorbachov may be moved as Politburo hints at reshuffle

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The final Politburo meeting before next Tuesday's Central Committee plenum has produced a hint that personnel changes may be in the offing.

Pravda yesterday said the Politburo had discussed President Gorbachov's proposals on several questions of current policy.

In Soviet political language, a reference to party appointments and dismissals, all high-level personnel changes are approved by the Central Committee.

Under President Brezhnev, the move was low with job security the priority, and under President Andropov, there were relatively few changes in the Politburo or secretariat.

Soviet sources said the plenum would discuss the economic situation, the state of agriculture and personnel matters. There is speculation that Mr Mikhail Gorbachov might be relieved of responsibility for agriculture, which has had a poor record.

Mr Valentin Mesyats, the Agriculture Minister, this week criticized "disorganization and slowness" in the use of animal fodder, and the Soviet press has reported a purge of collective farm managers.

These moves follow a hard-hitting speech by President Chernenko attacking inefficiency and corruption in agriculture.

There was further evidence earlier this week that protégés of the late President Andropov are keeping his memory and political legacy alive when Pravda published a lengthy and laudatory review of a new collection of Andropov's writings.

The article, spread over seven columns, headed "Under the banner of Leninism," said Andropov's speeches and articles reflected his "titanic activities" and the way in which he had guided the party in "enriching our experience in the building and perfecting of a new society".

Pravda recalled that when Mr Chernenko took over after Andropov's death last February he had expressed admiration for how much his predecessor had been able to

achieve in the short time available to him as leader.

Andropov's innovative policies, including a combination of economic reform and internal discipline, remain a subject of controversy, although President Chernenko has promised to continue them.

Since his coming to power, Mr Chernenko's collected speeches have dominated the bookshops, but they are now likely to rub shoulders with Andropov's volume, entitled *Leninism is the Inexhaustible Source of Revolutionary Energy and Creative Activities of the Masses*, a title which might seem cumbersome to Western ears but which places Andropov firmly in the Soviet canon.

Mr Chernenko, aged 73, was recently thought to be losing political authority because of his failing health. But he has appeared more robust in the past few weeks and has kept up a busy programme, demonstrating that he is in command. This week, Mr Chernenko held talks with President Assad of Syria and gave an interview to the *Washington Post* correspondent, Mr Dusko Doder, who said the Soviet leader appeared to be in relatively good health.

Although President Chernenko's answers were in written form, he spoke to the American correspondent for 20 minutes without notes, giving the impression that he was in command of foreign policy.

Pravda said the new Andropov book was being issued "in accordance with a Central Committee decision to perpetuate the name of Yuri Andropov, an outstanding figure of the party and state".

Plagues in Andropov's honour have been placed on the block of flats where he lived in Moscow, and on the Lubianka building (the KGB headquarters).

Andropov promoted several younger members of the current leadership now jostling for position in the Kremlin, including Mr Gaidar Aliyev and Mr Vitaly Vorotnikov, and was clearly grooming Gorbachov for the succession.

Bodies fuel slave trade rumours

Islamabad (Reuters) - The discovery of several bludgeoned corpses near an Afghan refugee camp has led to rumours that refugees are selling young girls as slaves to border tribesmen.

Tales that Afghan thugs - the "hammer group" - carried out the gruesome murders have swept down from the mountain town of Haripur, where more than 150,000 refugees live in a sprawling camp. Residents here have fed the fear with rumours that refugees kidnapped children, mostly girls, to sell into slavery.

Concern has spread to the corridors of power. President Zia-ul-Haq denied that any of the almost three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan were involved. Police said they had arrested suspects for 18 of the 19 murders but none was Afghan. The victims were killed in family feuds and other disputes, and a hammer was used in only one case, according to police.

General Zia said subversives were out to smear the Government.

Students killed in Sind clash

From Our Correspondent Islamabad

Three students and a policeman were among six people reported killed in Sind, Pakistan's southern province, this week when police exchanged fire with alleged criminals.

According to an official statement made in Hyderabad on Thursday evening, the incident occurred on Wednesday at Thori railway crossing near Hyderabad.

The statement also reported the arrest of 83 people including more than 50 students in connexion with the incident and said police had seized three rifles and about 1,400 rounds of ammunition.

The authorities have ordered the closure of several of Sind's universities. Officials have admitted that a rising trend of lawlessness in Sind which was the scene of anti-regime disturbances last year and was the home province of the executed Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, could partly be attributed to political causes.

Soares takes envoys of the Ten to task

From Richard Wigg, Lisbon

Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister, yesterday followed Spain's example by insisting that the EEC governments must come forward at next week's negotiating session with proposals to ensure that Portugal's promised date of entry into the Community on January 1, 1986, is fulfilled.

He called in the ambassadors of the Ten to hand over a document for their governments amid mounting worries in Lisbon that the major problems raised by Spain's entry negotiations will keep Portugal out of the EEC as well.

Dr Soares, informed sources indicated afterwards, reminded the envoys that several of their prime ministers, including Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who was here last April, had personally endorsed the January 1986 date to the Portuguese while they were in Lisbon.

It was through no fault of Portugal, Dr Soares went on, that the targeted date for concluding the Iberian nations' negotiations by September 30 had now passed.

He demanded an extra effort by the Ten so that Portugal's negotiations will be settled in a balanced and satisfactory way and not jeopardize the January 1986 entry.

Dr Soares's step followed immediately on a two-day visit here by Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, at which the Portuguese constantly put pressure on Bonn to use all its



Senhor Gama: Attacked EEC's inactivity

influence at next week's Luxembourg meeting to get the Ten to make some formal declaration that the promised entry date for Portugal be kept.

During the Genscher visit, Senhor Jaime Gama, Portugal's Foreign Minister, publicly criticized the EEC's inactivity which he said had provoked "serious frustration and disillusionment" among the Portuguese.

Herr Genscher insisted optimistically that both Spain and Portugal will become members by the targeted date, thereby getting round Portugal's implicit demand that its less complicated entry be fulfilled regardless of what happens to Spain.

THE ARTS

Theatre

Tragedy on a monotone

Macbeth
Young Vic

In turn, every one of the Young Vic's artistic directors has set his own style for Shakespeare: boisterously sportive under Frank Dunlop; ruthlessly modernized under Michael Bogdanov; David Thacker, to judge from this show, is putting his shirt on streamlined texts and integrated casting (even giving Duncan one son of each colour).

All over in two and a half hours, the production presents a company mainly clad in combat fatigues which merge all too well into Jessica Bowles's muddy ski-slope setting.

Apart from an oak throne and a round table, there are no props. The witches' cauldron consists of a ring of knotted handkerchieves on the floor, into which Macbeth's head is thrust to observe the parade of Banquo's progeny.

The playing style is fast and energetic, with none of the hold-ups that generally attend the West Indian speaking of classical verse. Mr Thacker is to be congratulated on having assembled an integrated company who do work as a team. Their drawback is anonymity. Uniformity of costume also embraces the performance.



Margot Leicester: A Lady Macbeth lost in a production that misses detail

The story is clearly told, but with so little attention to climaxes and character development that it barely holds the attention. Useless for Lady Macbeth (Margot Leicester) to protest that her husband has "displaced the mirth" when her dinner party started off with three glum guests looking down at their boots.

As for horror, Miss Leicester sets the tone by instructing

Macbeth to wash off "filthy witness" as if he had barged in from the rugged field, and when it comes to her own hand-washing number, the tone is much the same. But the fault is not so much hers as that of a production that sweeps away all detail so thoroughly that the events flash past in a void, encountering no resistance.

What development there is comes from Malcolm Tierney: a

heavy, breathy, thick-blooded Macbeth, steadily running out of steam until the final scenes where he remains slumped on the throne, reluctantly bestirring himself to polish off Young Seyward and then slumping back again. I have not seen a performance that captures so precisely the sense of enjoying a charmed life and the sense that it is not worth living.

Irving Wardle

London Sinfonietta/
Birtwistle/Atherton
Queen Elizabeth Hall

If there were Booker prizes for music, Harrison Birtwistle would have about 10 by now, and many of them for works first played by the London Sinfonietta. We were celebrating his fiftieth birthday, but we were celebrating, too, a relationship going back 15 years, to the *Verses for Ensembles* that brought the first half of this concert to an end ringing with screeched fanfares.

Much has changed since 1969: for one thing, the Sinfonietta's dress has become still more formal, instead of rather a pity in a work designed as a ceremony, with musicians coming and going to read their parts from different stations about the platform. But the blood of this work has not thinned, and the electricity it promised between composer

and orchestra has stayed at high voltage. As one is reminded by Michael Hall's timely and highly informative new book on Birtwistle (Robson Books, £8.95), the association has produced a prolonged love song in *Meridian*, a powerful image of calculated artifice becoming nature in the *Silbury Air*, and a mechanism of brutal and just gently nagging clocks in *Carmines*, which gave this concert its overture.

To those can now be added another major work and a pendant, both performed here for the first time. The pendant one might describe as charming, were one not embarrassed to do so by its cool, ancient simplicity. It is a group of five little songs, called *Songs by Myself* because they set Birtwistle's own words in a trickle of slow melody running among the pebbles and untrussed cymbals of his music for flute, solo strings, piano and vibraphone. Penelope Walmsley-Clark sound-

ded like a child, like a lightly-struck glass.

The major work, lasting almost half an hour, was *Serret Theatre*. It has the same complex interlocking of ticking, disjointed mechanisms as other recent Birtwistle compositions, the same anxious moments of stoppage or change, the same processional inevitability. But that is the carapace of style: the flesh (or is it a microchip imitation?) is new, and full of extraordinary inventive magic: instrumental songs that swim through the grids, moments of focus on some tiny, bright detail.

Also new is the sense of a physically wrought conflict sustained for long stretches between the melody of one or more soloists and the clockwork continuum of the rest. Melody disintegrates into cycling repetition: bits of the machinery take off into tune. The Sinfonietta have found themselves another drama to enact.

Paul Griffiths

Love Bites
Playhouse, Derby

Much more successfully than in *A Little Like Drowning*, Anthony Minghella's new play returns to his own family world of Italian immigrants in cream. Chronicling the rise to prosperity of brothers Angelo and Bruno, their early struggles and private lives, it shows far more of this unique writer's qualities: breath of scope, a seemingly unaffected style with an individual resonance, uncanny flashes of poetry and wild humour, great tenderness in treating sexual relations, and intriguing mysteriousness of purpose.

As with his *Two Planks and a Passion*, I could not say confidently what *Love Bites* is really about, but it is rich and utterly enthralling.

One new quality is a trick of sudden violence, confidently handled. The explosive opening shows a xenophobic neighbour vandalizing the Italians' premises and there is one very nasty "ice cream war" skirmish from which Angelo is saved by a passing customer, Dolores.

She is Italian, drawing him away from his English Elizabeth. In a later scene using the same actors their son pursues an Italian girl while his English wife is in labour. Time and again, their nationality - with its religion, behaviour codes, family structure and career

choices - appears as a trap, an incitement to rebellion.

The second act, set 40 years later (by which time the family are as confusing as a Roman emperor's), presents Angelo as an ageing henpecked plutocrat and a stouter Dolores as a narrow-minded snob.

Their daughter married into a rival ice cream dynasty (a fate which Mr Minghella himself narrowly escaped, apparently). She likes babies "because they take my mind off my husband". Finally, Angelo gives up. Disgusted by the professional circus, his son's conduct, and sabotage that melts his prize samples of pistachio, vanilla and strawberries, he empties them out like a libation, in ghastly parody of the national tricolour.

Christopher Honor, who commissioned this piece for the Playhouse, directs with superb confidence and indescribable range of incident from a parental punch-up to an incendiary air raid that fills the theatre with dry ice.

The brooding, stockily handsome Garry Cooper and cheerfully earthy Michael Gurn make an affectionate fraternity of brains and brawn, and slick Vincent Brimble give their first employer a mafioso's ruthlessness. Fity that only Bruno ages convincingly in character and appearance, but Veronica Clifford's imperious Dolores, petulantly belittling her haute couture, is riotously funny.

Anthony Masters

Television

A sunlover's view of Italians

In its worthy quest to introduce us to our fellow Europeans, BBC 2, which last year scrutinized the French, last night began a series meant to give us a keener insight into Italians.

It will do so through 10 individuals. Claudio Casadei, a *hagino* at Rimini, was the first. He has a franchise over part of the beach. He staked his claim while he was clearing up the debris of the war and with like-minded entrepreneurs formed a union which rented the beach from the council.

It was a visionary move. You can walk by the sea without let or hindrance but further up the beach you deal with the *haginos*. Judging by Signor Casadei, they do a splendid job. The return is good, too. On a good day at the height of the season, Signor Casadei takes £500 for his sun-beds, deckchairs and umbrellas alone. Nor is his lifestyle onerous.

His son looks after the money and the whole family joins him daily. Signora Casadei cooks lunch and dinner for 10 in the beach office.

Her husband explained that being a *hagino* demanded skills - he was not just a dogbody. A *hagino* gave advice, helped people who were ill, and, in extremities, gave artificial respiration. Being Italian, he is also a philosopher.

Signor Casadei reflected on the amorous habits of his clientele, mourned the topsy-turvy vogue which, he thought, made commonplace what could be more romantically discovered. Love, he said, had been diminished: "The word love is very subtle. It has lost its importance because now people meet, kiss, boom, boom, boom, and that's it."

Despite this deterioration in their standards, he considered Italians the best customers.

They were big spenders, had no thought for the morrow when on holiday, and were not calculating. "Love and sunshine", he said, were all an Italian needed.

His son, Giancarlo, possibly with an eye to the future of the family business, had a good word for the English. They, he observed, were coming back.

He remembered them when they were more numerous as marvellous customers: "They drank all day at the bar and had tea at five o'clock." They were also lavish hirers of sun-beds, possibly not unrelated to their drinking habits.

Richard Denton's production was good entertainment and pushed the series off to a good start. Next week, I understand, there will be something completely different: good for a Friday night.

Dennis Hackett

If £20,000 would do nicely next week, accept our card.

The second issue of The Times Portfolio card is in this week's Sunday Times Magazine. If you already have one it's still valid, and a second one simply doubles your chances of winning. Don't miss it. Over £450,000 has been won so far.

David Wade

SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Oxford's nuke

As Cambridge preen themselves as favourites for the Boat Race next spring, Oxford have had a startling boost to their chances. This is in the unexpected arrival of the international American oarsman Francis Reininger, aged 25 (6ft 3in and 14st 4lb) who missed out on Olympic selection in the final 10 strokes of the trial, but who was in the victorious United States coxed four in the Pan American Games in Caracas last year. Reininger, who has master's degrees in electrical engineering and nuclear engineering is in Oxford to read for a special diploma in social studies. Meanwhile, rumours abound of two other United States international oarsmen at Oxford, Chris Clark and George Livingstone, though they have not been sighted as yet. Oxford are now bracing themselves for a further airing of the eligibility question by Cambridge, but it is a fact that Reininger at least is *in statu pupillari* in his first year at Oxford.

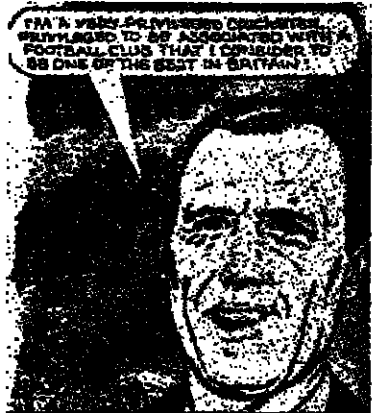
● The Bulgarian first division is operating a startling new points system. In the event of a goalless draw, neither side gets any points.

Undermined

The miner's strike is bringing financial crisis to one of the country's leading non-League sides. Frickley, of the Gola League, the top league outside the Football League itself, formally known as Frickley Colliery, are accustomed to receiving a levy of £6 a week from the wages of each Frickley miner. Since the strike began Frickley have lost more than £9,000 in unpaid levy and, to make things worse, their gates are down since people cannot afford the admission charges. Players' wages have been cut. "They accept it," said the chairman, Michael Twibey. Further austerities loom.

Different stripes

Geoff Boycott has a new manifestation - new avatar - as chairman of Melchester Rovers, the fictional football club led by Roy of the Rovers since 1954 in *Tiger* comic, and now in *Roy of the Rovers* magazine. But how much does canny old Boycott get director's fees? "Nothing," said the magazine's editor, Ian Vosper. "Roy can't afford it. But Geoff's always been a



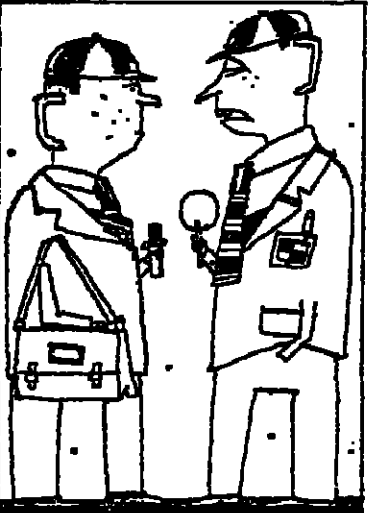
fan of Melchester, he's met Roy, and said if he's not chairman of Yorkshire, he might as well be chairman of Melchester Rovers." Boycott has also been a writer for *Tiger* in the past. Vosper says, writing his own copy and even sending postcards to *Tiger* from abroad. It comes as a shock to discover that Boycott has his whimsical side.

● The record-breaking Shergar yearling, knocked down at Goffs last week for 3.1m guineas to Shaikh Mohammed, has already been backed to win the 1986 Derby. The animal may not have a name yet, but he certainly has a price - 100 to one.

Overdone

Shocking though it may be, that renaissance man of sport, C. B. Fry, did not get a double first as claimed last week. That is simply one of cricket's many myths. Fry was, as one correspondent puts it, "that much rarer person," one who got a first in Mods and a fourth in Greats. Incidentally Mike Brearley's double first is another myth - he got a first in Classics and a mere two-one in Moral Sciences. The story that Fry was offered the throne of Albania is also generally accepted as a cricketing myth, the result, the theory goes, of a Ranjitsinhji hoax. But Marcus Williams, that indefatigable cricketing archivist, has discovered correspondence that states conclusively that the story is true. It was intimated that the throne could be made available to a suitable person who would spend £10,000 a year in the country and the job, it was delicately hinted, could be done by Fry. Fry, though tempted, was unable to accept.

BARRY FANTONI



"We don't speak to Smith Minor - he was only an NHS test-tube baby"

Edith Hope, a romantic fiction writer disgraced by a failed affair with a married man, goes to recuperate on Lake Geneva. In this extract from Anita Brookner's Booker Prize winning novel - hailed by the judges as 'a work of perfect artifice' - the heroine prepares to face her fellow guests at the Hotel du Lac

Of tortoises and hares

Unpacking took a few minutes. Superstitiously, she left the bulk of her clothing in her bag, signifying to herself that she could be off in a few minutes if the chance arose, although knowing that everything would stay there and be hopelessly creased into the bargain. It had ceased to matter. Her hairbrush and nightgown were carried into the bathroom. She surveyed her appearance, which seemed to be no different, and then, retrieving bag and key, she stepped out into a corridor vibrant with absence. A pale light filtered through a large window over the landing. The walls seemed to enshrine a distant memory of substantial meals. There was nobody about, although through a door further along the corridor she could hear the faint sound of a radio.

The Hotel du Lac (Famille Huber) was a stolid and dignified building, a house of repute, a traditional establishment, used to welcoming the prudent, the well-to-do, the retired, the self-effacing, the respected patrons of an earlier era of tourism. It had made little effort to smarten itself up for the passing trade which it had always despised. Its furnishings, although austere, were of excellent quality, its linen spotless, its service impeccable. Its reputation among knowledgeable professionals attracted apprentices of good character who had a serious interest in the hotel trade, but this was the only concession it made to a recognition of its own resources.

As far as guests were concerned, it took a perverse pride in its very absence of attractions, so that any visitor looking for a room would be puzzled and deflected by the sparseness of the terrace, the muted hush of the lobby, the absence of piped music, public telephones, advertisements for scenic guided tours, or notice boards directing one to the amenities of the town.

There was no sauna, no hair-dresser, and certainly no glass cases displaying items of jewellery; the bar was small and dark, and its austerity did not encourage people to linger. It was implied that prolonged drinking, whether for purposes of business or as a personal indulgence, was not *commode* *et fait*, and if thought absolutely necessary should be conducted either in the privacy of one's suite or in the more popular establishments where such leanings were rarely encountered after ten o'clock in the morning, by which time all household noises had to be silenced; no vacuuming was heard, no carts of dirty linen were glimpsed, after that time. A discreet rustle announced the reappearance of the maids to turn down the beds and tidy the rooms once the guests had finished changing to go down to the hotel, and at this time of the year, as the end of the season was resigned to catering for a mere handful of guests before closing its doors for the winter.

What it had to offer was a mild form of sanctuary, an assurance of privacy, and the protection and the discretion that attach themselves to blamlessness. This last quality being less than attractive to a surprising number of people, the Hotel du Lac was usually half empty, and at this time of the year, as the end of the season was resigned to catering for a mere handful of guests before closing its doors for the winter.

There was nothing to do but go for a walk. Through the silent garden, through an iron gate, across the busy road, and along the shore of the lake she walked in the fading light of that grey day. The silence engulfed her once she was past the town's one intersection, and it seemed as if she might walk for ever, uninterrupted, with only her thoughts for company. This solitude to which she had been banished, by those who knew best, was not what she had had in mind. And this dim, veiled, discreet, but unfriendly weather was this to be an additional accompaniment to this time of trial, for someone who had rashly travelled without a heavy coat? The lake was utterly still; a solitary lamp gleamed above her, turning the limp leaves of a plane tree to brilliant emerald. There is no need for me to say here if I don't want to, she decided. Nobody is actually forcing me. But I must give it a try if only to make things easier when I get home. The place is not totally unpopulated. I do need a rest. I could perhaps give it a week. And there is a lot to find out, for someone of my benighted persuasion, although of course none of those people would fit into the sort of fiction I write.

But that very long, narrow woman, that beautiful woman, with the tiresome dog. And more than that, the glamorous pair who seem to see here. Why are they here? But women, women, only women, and I do love the conversation of men. Oh David, David, she thought. Her walk along the lake shore reminded her of nothing so much as those silent walks one takes in dreams, and in which unreason and inevitability go hand in hand. As in dreams she felt both despair and a sort of doomed curiosity, as if she must pursue this path until its purpose were revealed to her. The cast of her mind on this evening, and the aspect of the path itself, seemed to promise an unfavourable outcome: shock, betrayal, or at the very least, a train smash, an important occasion attended in rags, an appearance in the dock on an unknown charge.

The light, too, was that of dreams.



an uncertain penumbra surrounding this odd pilgrimage, neither day nor night. In the real world through which she walked she was aware of certain physical characteristics: a perfectly straightforward gravel path flanked by two rows of trees standing in beaten earth, on one side the lake, invisible now, on the other, presumably, the town, but a town so small and so well ordered that one would never hear the screaming of brakes or the hooting of horns or the noise of voices raised in extravagant farewell.

Only the modest sound of a peacable file of evening traffic going home came faintly to her ears from somewhere beyond the trees, out of sight. Much louder was the sound of her own steps on the gravel, so loud that it seemed intrusive, and after a while she began to walk on the soft earth of the path nearest the lake. Beneath the light of an occasional lamp, she walked on unintermitted, as if she were the only one abroad in this silent place. A perceptible chill rose from the water, which she could no longer see, and she shivered in her long cardigan. Doomed for a certain time to walk the earth, she thought, and brooding but acquiescent, she carried on until she thought it time to be allowed to stop. Then she turned and retraced her steps.

Walking back through the twilight she saw the hotel from afar, lit up, falsely festive. I must make an effort, she decided, although she knew that a different sort of woman would have said, with a worldly sigh, "I suppose I must put in an appearance."

Dressed for dinner, in her Liberty silk smock, her long narrow face, she entered the hotel. Edith sought for ways of delaying the moment at which she would be forced to descend into the dining room and take her first meal in public. She even wrote a few paragraphs of *Beneath the Visiting Moon*, then on re-reading them, realized that she had used the same device in *The Stone and the Star*, and crossed them out. And in crossing them out, understood exactly where she would have to go when she started again. Thus slightly reassured, with tomorrow's work tentatively programmed, she closed the folder, took up her bag and her key, and walked resolutely out of the room.

Downstairs all was deserted, and she realized that she was too early. The only sounds came from the bar, where subdued masculine conversation, unbroken by laughter or conviviality, was in progress. She would have liked a gin and tonic but could not quite make the effort. She sat down at a small table in the salon and picked up a crumpled copy of the *Gazette de Lausanne* which someone had left. Curious that it had not been cleared away, she thought, the housekeeping here seems so very careful.

Leaving back and closing her eyes briefly, she allowed her dread of the evening before her to come to the surface. In any event meals in public were not to her taste, even when she was accompanied. She remembered with a slight shudder the last meal she had had before leaving England. Her agent, Harold

Webb, had taken her out to lunch. He had clearly meant to raise her spirits, had assured her of his confidence in her, had even told her that he intended to negotiate a higher advance for her next book. "This other business will blow over," he had said, lighting an unaccustomed cigar.

A mild and scholarly man who looked like a country doctor, he disliked the more sociable aspects of his calling, but had nevertheless booked a table in a cathedral-like restaurant, where the patrons covered in worship before the marvels to be set in front of them, and had gamely tackled the intricately coiled fillet of fish which had seemed to be the simplest item on the menu. Edith, regretting the *Perrier* water which always gave her wind, stared moodily into the distance. Conversation was not easy.

"I like the idea of the new one," said Harold, after a long pause. "Although I have to tell you that the romantic market is beginning to change. It's the sex for the young woman executive now, the *Cosmopolitan* reader, the girl with the executive briefcase."

Receiving no response, he made play with the tiny fan of fretted carrot carved on a side plate and, having dealt with that, returned to the attack.

"What does she take with her on that business trip to Brussels?" "Glasgow," murmured Edith.

"What? Oh, well, probably. But anyway, she wants something to reassure her that being liberated is fun. She wants something to flatter her ego when she's spending a lonely night in an hotel. She wants something to reflect her lifestyle."

"Harold," said Edith, "I simply do not know anyone who has a lifestyle. What does it mean? It implies that everything you own was bought at exactly the same time, about five years ago, at the most. And anyway, if she's all that liberated, why doesn't she go down to the bar and pick someone up? I'm sure it's entirely possible. It's just that most women don't do it."

"And why don't they do it?" she asked, with a sudden return of assurance. "It's because they prefer the old myths, when it comes to the crunch. They want to believe that they are going to be discovered, looking their best, behind closed doors just when they thought that all was lost, by a man who has battled across continents, abandoning whatever he may have had in his in-tray, to reclaim them. Ah! If only it were true," she said, breathing hard, and spearing a slice of kiwi fruit which remained suspended on her fork as she bent her head and thought this one out. She really does look remarkably Bloomerian, thought Harold, viewing the hollowed cheeks and the pursed lips.

"Well, my dear, you know best," he said, not wishing to upset her more than she had already been upset by that other business. "I just thought that..."

"And what is the most potent myth of all?" she went on, in the slightly ringing tones that caused him to make a discreet sign to the waiter for the bill. "The tortoise and the hare," she pronounced. "People

love this one, especially women. Now you will notice, Harold, that in my books it is the mouse-like unassuming girl who gets the hero, while the scornful temptress with whom he has had a stormy affair retreats baffled from the fray, never to return. The tortoise wins every time. This is a lie of course," she said, pleasantly, but with authority, the kiwi fruit slipping back unnoticed on to her plate.

"In real life, of course, it is the hare who wins. Every time. Look around you. And in any case it is my contention that Aescop was writing for the tortoise market. Axiomatically," she cried, her voice rising with enthusiasm. "Hares have no time to read. They are too busy winning the game. The propaganda goes all the other way, but only because it is the tortoise who is in need of consolation. Like the meek who are going to inherit the earth," she added, with a brief smile. After a pause, she addressed herself to what was left on her plate, ate it in one dismissive mouthful, and leant back, still lost in her argument.

He reflected that she was not a professor's daughter for nothing, but that she could be relied upon to get back to work fairly soon, and that, after a break, she would probably come up with yet another modest but substantial story.

"Of course," said Edith, ladling chips of sugar coloured liked bath salts into her coffee. "You could argue that the hare might be affected by the tortoise lobby's propaganda, might become more prudent, circumspect, slower, in fact. But the hare is always convinced of his own superiority, he simply does not recognize the tortoise as a worthy adversary. That is why the hare wins," she concluded. "In life, I mean. Never in fiction. At least, not in mine. The facts of life are too terrible to go into my kind of fiction. And my readers certainly do not want them there. You see, Harold, my readers are essentially virtuous. And as far as they are concerned - as far as I am concerned - those multi-organic girls with the executive briefcases can go to hell. They will be adequately catered for. There are hucksters in every market place."

"I see you are getting back your old form," said Harold, counting out a quantity of notes.

"Thank you for lunch, Harold," Edith said, in the busy street outside. The coming separation from his kindly and self-effacing concern struck her more forcibly now than it had done hitherto. He was the only person who could be trusted to get on with her once she had gone away. He was the only person - well, almost - who knew where she was going.

He was, alas, not the only person who knew why she was going. She looked imploringly into his eyes, aware that he had paid far too much money for a meal that would leave him hungry in an hour's time. Her own appetite was gone, quite gone. It hardly mattered what she ate these days, since she no longer mattered to herself. But those lovely meals that she had cooked for David, those heroic frugal, those blow-outs that he always seemed to require when they eventually got out of bed, at such awkward times, after midnight, sometimes leaving it till the last minute before he raced back to Holland Park through the silent streets.

"I never get this stuff at home," he would say lovingly, spearing a chip and inserting it into the yolk of a fried egg. And in her nightgown, she would watch him, a scepter of baked beans to hand. Judging the state of his appetite with the eye of an expert, she would take another dish and ladle on to his plate a quivering mound of egg custard. "Food fit for heroes," he would sigh contentedly, his lean milky body forever resistant to the fattening effects of such a diet. "Scraps," he would pronounce, leaning back, replete. "Any tea going?"

But even as he drank his tea she would notice him quickening, straightening, becoming more rapid and decisive in his movements, and when he passed his hand over his short, dark hair she would know that he was in transition, was in progress and that he would soon get dressed. Then, she felt, she knew him less. All the business of cuff-links and watches belonged to his other life: this was what he did every morning while his wife called to the children who were going to be late. And finally she felt she hardly knew him at all, although she watched from behind the curtain as he ran out to the car, hustled now, and roared off into the night. It always felt as if he had gone for ever. But he had always come back. Sooner or later, he had come back.

It had seemed to her that the daylight hours were spent simply waiting for him. And yet there were five novels, of some length, there to prove that she had not spent her time gazing out of the window, like the Lady of Shalott. It was, she recognized, a tortoise existence, despite the industry that was why she wrote for tortoises, like herself.

But now I am reduced to pure tortoisedom, she thought, opening her eyes and gazing fearfully around the still deserted salon. But the appearance of a waiter in the doorway, with a napkin over his arm, gave her an access of determination, if only to get the meal over, for now she wanted to be alone, in her room, so as to think. This is when character tells, as Father would say. And she urged herself onward to the dining room, prepared to because it was good for her, and to remain in an equable frame of mind for as long as possible.

Anita Brookner was a 6-1 outsider for the £15,000 Booker Prize, Britain's top fiction award, presented on Thursday night. She is 46, a lecturer at the Courtauld Institute and an authority on 18th and 19th century art. *Hotel du Lac* is her fourth novel, preceded by *A Start in Life*, *Providence* and *Look at Me*, all published by Jonathan Cape. They have been criticized in the past for their limited scale and subject matter. But in preferring *Hotel du Lac* to the favourite, *Empire in the Sun* by J. G. Ballard, the judges praised it for its dry humour, minute observation and elegant simplicity.

Woodrow Wyatt

An absolute mine of mythinformation

A call for compromise always appeals to the British. There is an assumption that in a dispute there must be something to be said for each side, that a little give and take will provide the solution without anyone having to be declared victor or loser.

So high-ranking clerics and other well meaning people, seeing deadlock between the NCB and the NUM, talk of the morality of compromise, unable to believe that one side will be content only with unconditional surrender. Convinced that there must be something wrong with the NCB's position, they fall prey to myth.

The first myth is that some new action of the NCB's wantonly set off the strike. The facts are either not studied or are forgotten. The strike began after the NCB area director's proposal, which he made strictly in accordance with agreed procedures, to close the Cortonwood colliery in Yorkshire. Cortonwood had been producing coking coal at a price unsaleable mainly because of a downturn in the steel industry. The area director said that if an early closure could be agreed, jobs for those displaced would be guaranteed in nearby pits, but that Cortonwood would not be closed until the agreed procedures had been fully applied.

Previously there would have been further meetings to discuss the situation. The two other unions concerned were happy about that. The Yorkshire NUM refused to attend another meeting and instead, without consulting its members by ballot, called a strike which Mr Scargill contrived to turn into a more or less national strike. The only reason for the strike could have been that Mr Scargill and the NUM executive were looking for a way of starting one.

The agreed procedures broken last March by the NUM had been followed for ten years during which 79 closures were dealt with. Fifty-eight were agreed locally. Nineteen were referred to national appeal meetings: ten were closed and nine were allowed to continue in operation until they were later closed by local agreement.

The second myth is that Mr Scargill and the NUM wished to adhere to the 1974 Plan for Coal and the NCB did not. The 10-year period covered by this plan is now nearly ended. It depended on increased productivity by miners which was not forthcoming. It contained a forecast of energy requirements from coal which was blown sky high by the failure to produce cheaper coal and by world and British energy requirements being much lower than had been supposed. The plan looked to expansion of cheaper coal production through new developments and investment in new pits and it included the important statement, "Inevitably some pits will have to close as their useful economic reserves of coal are depleted."

The NCB has adhered faithfully to the Plan for Coal. Despite the shortfall in the increased productivity promised by the NUM, mammoth investment has taken place and more is still planned. Subsidies to make good the deficiencies of the NUM's side of the bargain are out of all proportion to those given to other more or equally deserving industries.

As recently as last Monday, Mr Scargill said: "The NUM emphasizes yet again that there can be no settlement of this dispute unless the Coal Board drops its demands that

pits should be closed on economic grounds.... That is totally at variance with the Plan for Coal which he claims as his bible."

The third myth is that the NCB has made no concessions since the strike started. Many think it ought not to have made any, but it has. It has agreed that Snowdon, Bulcliffe Wood, Polmaise, Harrington and Cortonwood, all of which ought to be closed, should continue to await the new extended review procedures. The NCB has agreed to re-examine its proposals of March 6 for cutting coal production by 4 million tons; this would involve the closure of some pits where coal costs double or more to produce than in the better pits but for which there is no named or set hit list, as repeatedly alleged. The NCB accepted, last Monday's, Aescop compromise proposals for an independent body to be involved in the review procedures; the NUM rejected it. Other than giving all the coal mines to the NUM with unlimited subsidies to keep them open, however, much coal is unsold, there is nothing more that could be conceded.

Yet last Tuesday on *World at One* Mr Kinnock maintained that the dispute could be resolved if the NCB went back to the agreed procedures for closing pits, without having troubled to inform himself that it is the NUM who abandoned these procedures and not the NCB, who are and always were anxious to continue them. Thus are myths perpetuated.

The fourth myth is that local communities are avowed when miners change from one pit to another. All miners who want to stay have been guaranteed a job. In most cases working at a different pit merely entails a short car journey. Miners no longer, as in nineteenth century times, have to walk miles to get to work.

The fifth myth, Pickett lines should never be crossed. In January 1983 at the NUM headquarters in London, Mr Scargill frequently crossed the picket lines posted by the NUM employees in dispute with the NUM.

If the worst loss-making pits were closed and new pits were developed, which would cause little hardship, coal could be produced at a price competitive with imported oil and without subsidy. At the moment our deep mined coal is priced way above that from the USA, Australia, South Africa and Canada, even when shipping costs are added.

It ought to be clear by now, even to a bishop, that Mr Scargill does not want miners to earn their own living but to be permanent pensioners of the nation. And it ought also to be clear that he welcomes the strike for the political clout it gives towards his hope of destroying British industry so that he and his Marxist friends become heirs to the throne.

A third of the miners have gone on working and have demonstrated that they wish to continue working (why don't the BBC and ITV give one-third of the time to their representatives that they give to the NUM leaders? This is one reason why the bishops are so short on facts).

It may take two years before the ordinary members of the NUM overthrow their executive and insist on a return to the agreed procedures abandoned by Mr Scargill. If the nation is not prepared to stick it out, whatever the discomfort, it is signalling to the world and itself that the British decline is irreversible.

Alan Franks

When opposites are apposite

Whatever became of the paronym? Did it submerge as quickly as it had surfaced, or is it simply keeping its head down for fear of detection?

Neither. It is alive and well, and living deep in the rhetoric of statesmen, the patter of broadcasters and the conversation of ourselves. It is up to us to flush it out.

But first an explanation, for you will seek it in vain in most dictionaries. Though it may be a neologism, it has an impeccable classical provenance: the Greek *paronym*, which started life as meaning "beside", but which has since travelled via "beyond" to the sense of "contrary to", and the *onym* suffix as in pseudonym, antonym, synonym, etc. Meaning, when set in tandem, a word which signifies the opposite of that intended by its user. "Provisional", "liberation" and "rationalize" were three of the earliest cited examples.

In the warfare of words, language is the first casualty, even before truth; and since, in the intervening years (I mean since Callaghan as well as since the Bible), we have in all likelihood continued our inexorable fall from linguistic grace, the paronym must surely abound in our usages.

What about "information officer"? The man exists to block the flow of the stuff, not dispense it. What about "urban development"? It always means pulling down old buildings. Or "action committee", which amounts to a bureaucratic brake on anything resembling movement.

But let us now return to the paronym. Since it first came to the notice of a wide public in the *Sunday Times* Axioms column eight years ago, it seems only proper for the sister paper to now devote a few paragraphs (or "paras", which is the little-used long form of the professional abbreviation "para") to the word's voyage through the vocabulary.

Axioms was intrigued, during those "Callaghan" years, by the "spelling out" which everyone seemed to be doing, a device which

ensured that we should all remain as mystified as ever. He also listed "easy" (as in Radio Two's *Easy Listening Music*), meaning "intolerable", supporter (as in football supporters), meaning "despoiler", "midnight" (as in "Midnight Movie"), meaning "11:15 pm", "fly" (as in flyover), meaning "stand immobile", "individual" (as in individual portion), meaning "uniform", "freedom" (as in National Association For), meaning "privilege", and various others. Never, he concluded, had the word been so useful, whatever the discomfort. It is signalling to the world and itself that the British decline is irreversible.

Before you dismiss these as renamed versions of the oxymoron, remember that that figure of speech implies pointedness and deliberation. The contradiction, thoroughly aware of itself, is there to arrest: "a cheerful pessimist"; "harmonious discord". His honour, rooted in dishonour stood. And faith unfaithful kept him falsely true. Yes, it may have trickled down from high poetic diction into "terribly happy" and "colossally small", but the two figures are essentially as much in opposition as any other components.

"Oxymoron" of course is formed by the Greek for "sharp" and the Greek for "blunt", and so is related by coincidence to one of the best paronyms of all. When Geoff Boycott does some "blunt speaking" to Ray Illingworth, or vice versa, you can bet your hat that the exchanges are nothing if not sharp. The men may look like morose, but they are in fact oxys (high time perhaps for Yorkshire County Cricket Club to rechristen Sharpe Blunte).

I asked a learned friend for a "beheaded" reporting. "Not ten seconds later he followed up with 'quality journalism'. Oh dear."



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DEEDS NOT WORDS

There are plenty of wrong answers in economics, but not one simple right one. Thus the daily task of economic management is to make your particular answer work best. The Government has been falling short of this objective, although many of its difficulties are created by others, it needs to display a greater sense of purpose. Mr Nigel Lawson's speech at the Mansion House on Thursday night should provide the opportunity.

There the Chancellor gave his answer to the falling pound. It was delivered to the "bankers and merchants of the City of London" at their traditional dinner. But it was, or should be, something much more than a technical signal to the financial markets.

Two answers were broadly possible. Since the spring, the Government had been attempting to divert attention from sterling's decline against the dollar, by pointing to its (broadly stable) rate against other currencies - meaning, in effect, against European currencies. Partly because of these signals, and because of the interest-rate rise in July when sterling's value against the Europeans began to slip, an exchange-rate policy of "shadowing" the members of the European Monetary System appears to be developing in practice if not in intent.

It would not be a foolish policy. Trade is drawing Britain steadily nearer to Europe; greater exchange-rate stability between the pound and the rest has followed. Although the pound was still, this spring, overvalued against the D-mark, both the benefits and the costs of exchange rate depreciation now look much more dubious than they appeared to be in the 1970s. The declining costs of depreciation have been demonstrated by Britain's low inflation rate during the past year. Prices have adjusted to the dollar's strength, the dollar prices, not only of oil but of other commodities, have been falling. At the same time, the export advantages of a lower exchange

rate look less compelling. Supporting the exchange rate, however, has its costs; intervention is only a short-term measure, and higher interest rates are the usual price. But since the prime cause of sterling's present external weakness is the debilitating miners' strike, giving rise to fears that the Thatcher Government is losing its grip, a higher interest rate could be correctly presented as the extra penalty imposed by Mr Scargill on the rest of the British economy.

Mr Lawson's answer, however, went unequivocally in the opposite direction. The exchange rate should not influence interest rates, said Mr Lawson, provided domestic monetary conditions are demonstrably under control. In other words - since Mr Lawson believes the money supply is demonstrably under control - he would not raise or keep interest rates up to defend the pound.

Since market uncertainty has been giving Britain the worst possible combination of exchange-rate nervousness and high interest rates, this clear answer was welcome. It, too, is not a foolish policy. Its reconfirmation was followed, by coincidence, by a dip in the dollar, which helped the market to digest Mr Lawson's views in some tranquillity yesterday. (This was accompanied for a further fall in the pound against the D-mark; a combination which is viewed most favourably by British industry.) It is a policy which frees the Government from slavish attention to forces often outside its control. It should allow Mr Lawson to pursue his chosen policy of driving interest rates down as far as he can without overshooting his monetary targets. This, he believes, will have a strong positive effect on output and employment. Since this is where his economic strategy most needs to produce better results, it is the proper course for him to take.

But he has yet to prove his determination to do so. Interest rates need to be brought down as

quickly as possible. Mr Lawson has the right to choose his day; after all, he tries to leave interest rates to the market, and he must choose a moment when he can go with the grain of the market. But as he himself admitted on Thursday night, markets act on what they believe to be government policy, while the Bank of England is a powerful market participant.

That Mr Lawson needs to choose his moment as quickly as possible is demonstrated by the fragile nature of Britain's economic recovery. Of course the picture is clouded by the miners' strike, and by a tedious semantic argument about the nature of "recovery". Output in Britain has been rising since 1981; though there were underlying signs of hesitation this summer, it can be confidently expected to rise again next year. But - with the exception of a brief spurt at the end of 1983 - it has not grown fast enough to arrest unemployment or create very many jobs.

All along, the Government has been engaged in a race between changes designed to cure inflation, while improving the capacity of the economy to adjust, invest and expand - and the new rigidities creeping in through people's growing fear of the dole. Since the 1983 election, this is a race in which the Government has given, too much, the appearance of only jogging along, in constant danger of being overtaken by events.

It is not enough for Mr Lawson to tell the markets and the electorate that there has been "no change" of course. They need something more than evidence of a dogged determination to sweat through every difficulty, from unemployment to the miners' strike. A cut in interest rates cannot, of course, provide this alone. The Chancellor needs, fast, a whole range of new stimuli to enterprise and employment. But early action would provide some sense that the Government is not merely clear what its economic policy should be, but still capable of taking the initiative to push it along.

ANSWERING FOR THE POLICE

The Home Secretary has spent a week pondering Mr James Anderson's riddle, and he has not found an answer yet. It is not only the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester who has posed it, for his police committee echoed it as soon as they heard of Mr Anderson's request. Both want to know what the line of demarcation is between their respective responsibilities, and Mr Brittan will be hard put to it to answer, since the Police Act 1964 lays down no clear line, and assigns him no formal role as arbiter. Mr Anderson's police band, doomed by spending cuts to meet the cost of policing the coal strike, and South Yorkshire's police horses, threatened on a similar pretext, both point to the danger that the principle of local accountability in policing may become one of the many permanent casualties of the coal strike.

In theory, it is simple. Police authorities have a statutory duty to secure the maintenance of an efficient police force, but no power to instruct chief constables on operational matters. But where does efficient provision end and operational discretion begin?

Until the last few years, the problem was more often expressed as one of local neglect, rather than excessive interference. Most committees are still passive, uninformed rubber stamps, and have little opportunity of being much more. The 1964 system was the outcome of an intense and never fully resolved debate over local or national accountability. It reflected its inconclusiveness in a framework which restricted police authorities' effective powers almost to vanishing point, while leaving them technically responsible, and added greatly to the Home Secretary's powers while leaving him

answerable only in the very broadest terms for policing outside London. As for chief constables, their operational discretion under common law was left secure, as it must always be.

With the usual provisos about reasonable conduct and integrity, chief constables are virtually free to go their own way, subject to the operational requirements of the Inspectorate of Constabulary. The Home Secretary is able to impose most of what he wants on police committees either by the threat of legal action for default in their duties, or by the threat of cutting off police grant. He has a veto on senior appointments and dismissals, and last week announced a new appeal procedure to limit authorities' powers of suspension as well. If he is leaving Mr Anderson's police band in the lurch, that is only because it is exceptionally difficult to identify a band as part of the fight against crime. Policy circulars flow out from Whitehall to chief constables, and police committees have no formal share in the process, nor any effective prescribed machinery even for discussing policy with their nominal servants.

At this moment it may seem very lucky that their role is so marginal. Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire cannot stop men being drafted into their area or out under the emergency arrangements. They are almost as impotent as the GLC is in London. The Home Secretary undoubtedly represents national public opinion more closely than those committees do, but the system leaves a hiatus in accountability. The Home Secretary will not answer questions about policing outside London, except in the broadest terms, and has proved unwilling even to follow up the Public Accounts

Committee's criticisms of the unduly marked differences in expenditure on policing between one authority and another.

The system provides effective political accountability neither on the national nor the local level: this is one more instance in which the police find themselves "in the gap" and at risk of odium in consequence.

Local or national policing? The question went by default in 1964. Modern operational conditions - more mobile criminals with more sophisticated methods, and the advantages of large-scale coordination - point to a national system. The British libertarian tradition of suspicion towards an over-mighty police points the other. It may be noted that the 1962 Royal Commission, which came down in favour of a rather hamstrung local option, found unanimously that a national force would not be "constitutionally objectionable or politically dangerous".

Local accountability means local differences of policy. How much tolerance for such diversities can an integrated modern society afford? This is no moment to attempt to predict how sharply national and local policies may diverge once the strike is all over, though it is likely that they will in some cases remain significant. It is improbable that any Government will act in such circumstances to give greater substance to the framework of local accountability which has become almost notional. What is not acceptable - and in the last resort not fair on the police - is a framework like the present one, in which no elected authority is clearly answerable to the public for the way it exercises its control of policing policy. Perhaps national, perhaps local; but certainly not the one disguised as the other.

PAYING TO KNOW THE LAW

If justice is to be seen to be done, the grounds on which judgments are delivered in the courts must be freely available. But the visibility of justice is not the only reason judgments should be accessible. If society is to be law-abiding, the law must be knowable, and under the English Common Law, the details of judgments determine what the present state of an evolving law is. Knowledge of the uninterpreted words of statutes is not enough, and the grounds on which the courts base their decisions are of interest to very many more people than the parties to the cases judged.

It must, therefore, be wrong

that the House of Lords is now to charge (either by annual subscription or for individual cases) for the judgments of the Lords of Appeal in the shape of their unspoken speeches. Until twenty years ago, the judgments in full were read out in the House of Lords. But since then there has been no more than a brief reading of the finding in the case, read out at 2 o'clock after Prayers, by the Lord of Appeal who wrote it and who states that the reasons will be given in the written speeches on which the public must now rely, and for which the press must now pay.

The House of Lords is the only court to charge for

handing out its judgments, and internationally neither the International Court of Justice at the Hague nor the Court of Justice of the European Community does so. The cost of buying the judgments is trivial (£200 for a year's subscription or £4 for each case) but the principle established is not. For what is to stop the imposition of what might be called an economic price taking into account all the costs of printing, overheads and their Lordships' salaries? Indeed, it would be as logical to charge an entry fee to the press benches as to charge the press for printed judgments available to them in no other form.

Rationale of a new plan for coal

From Mr Oscar A. Beuselinck

Sir, Is Mr Scargill saying a) that whilst governments can change or repeal legislation of their predecessors, *Plan For Coal* has some unique status over and above the will of Parliament which makes it sacrosanct?

b) that any alteration, however rational, evidences unwillingness by the Coal Board rationally to negotiate?

If yes, what is there to negotiate except an abdication by Government and Parliament to the wills and policies of Scargillism.

Yours faithfully,
OSCAR A. BEUSELINCK,
10 Soho Square, W1,
October 16.

From Dr G. A. Kellaway

Sir, The need for separation of coal mining operations and the long-term management of our coal resources was forcibly brought home to me over 30 years ago when I and my colleagues on the Geological Survey were struggling to assist first private owners and then the NCB to improve output and develop new pits.

The Bristol and Somerset coalfield (now closed down) was faced with complex geological problems which took many years of effort and large financial resources to solve. Finally we located the only substantial remaining area of unworked coal where the geological structure and surface conditions were favourable to mining.

At this stage I advised the NCB to sink a drift mine at Harry Stoke, Bristol to test the workability of all the principal seams before considering the sinking of a deep shaft. However the Board was anxious to produce coal from this unit relying on only the three best-looking seams proved in boreholes. Judged in human terms this was a praiseworthy attempt to relieve unemployment and retain a viable labour force. In the long term, the result was disastrous.

The price of oil was, at this time very low and industry and the public were turning to oil as a fuel. The coal in the three seams proved difficult to work by machine methods and belt transportation. The drift mine was therefore declared uneconomic.

Closure and demolition at the end of the 1950s were followed by changes in planning restrictions on surface developments. Although the area may well contain workable reserves of coal, it seems unlikely therefore that the area could ever be developed again as a source of coal. This example, by no means unique, is not quoted as evidence of any failing on the part of the NCB. Their primary task is to produce coal at the lowest possible price consonant with the safety and well being of the labour force and the public.

Wages of sin

From Mr L. Morley

Sir, I applaud Mr D. Watson James's letter to you today (October 18) in which he suggests that the sugar and confectionery industries should be taxed for contributing to dental decay. A tooth tax? And why not extend the principle? A lung tax on cigarettes, and obesity tax on fatty food manufacturers, a crash tax on car manufacturers relative to the number of their cars involved in accidents?

The principle can be extended

They cannot always be expected to achieve this objective and at the same time engage in conservation exercises which involve matters of public policy regarding the production and use of fuel reserves. These problems involve long term national fuel policies.

An independent body to administer the coal reserves is, as you say in your leading article of October 17, an absolute necessity. Miners, geologists and engineers should be represented on it, but only the Government is competent to deal with this. Unless it faces up to its responsibilities the present difficulties will not be resolved and the disastrous economic and social consequences, to which Dr Rurkic has drawn attention, will ultimately be laid at the door of those who hold political power.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY A. KELLAWAY,
14 Cranedown,
Levens,
Sussex,
October 17.

From Dr R. C. Fordham

Sir, Your very constructive leader article (October 17) omits one important condition for a beneficial result.

It would be necessary to set the domestic price of coal equal to the (now lower) price of imported coal. This would ensure that the rate of return on the commercial part of the coal mining industry would be a measure of its real profitability. It would also lower energy costs and in the long run produce more jobs.

If then the NCB were asked to show a given rate of return at this revised coal price they could then specify which pits should remain in the commercial coal mining sector.

Production from the remaining pits would continue, but under a separate management and for only as long as socially necessary.

Your leader is entirely right in emphasizing the need to separate issues of commercial from those of social policy. Without that neither is likely to be resolved.

Yours faithfully,
R. C. FORDHAM,
43 Rectory Road,
Oxford,
October 17.

From Dr D. A. Jennings

Sir, An unknown donor has paid £1,000 into a court on behalf of Mr Scargill. Is this liable to income tax as a perquisite of office? Or is it exempt as a necessary expense in the discharge of his duties?

Yours faithfully,
DENYS JENNINGS,
Stayahill,
21 Northview Road,
Budeigh Salterton,
Devon,
October 18.

indefinitely. Criminals could be taxed in proportion to the police effort needed to apprehend them, making it worth their while to inform the police in advance of any crime, and most popular of all, a tax on trades unions relative to the amount of disruption they cause society.

Yours faithfully,
L. MORLEY,
39 Standbridge Lane,
Sandal,
Wakefield,
West Yorkshire,
October 18.

Heroin addiction

From the Ambassador of Pakistan

Sir, Mr Tom Tuke (October 12) does not seem to be aware of the strong measures taken by the Government of Pakistan to combat drug smuggling.

We are waging almost a war against heroin traffickers. The maximum punishment for heroin smuggling in Pakistan has been raised to life imprisonment. We have allowed the British Government to post a customs intelligence officer in Pakistan with whom our anti-narcotics agencies are co-operating fully. His timely tip-offs to the customs in Britain have led to large seizures of heroin in recent months in the UK. Similar co-operation is being extended by us to the USA, West Germany and certain other countries in the war on drugs.

More than two score of heroin laboratories, many staffed by trained foreign pharmacists deputed by the drug forces in the West, were smashed by Pakistan's security forces last year in the virtually unpoliceable no-man's-land between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Under a UN-aided crop-substitution programme, farmers have been weaned away in large numbers from poppy-growing in the tribal highlands of the North-West Frontier, so much so that its output

has fallen from 800 tons in 1981 to 60 tons as of now. Trained sniffer dogs, supplied by the West German Government, have been deployed at all major air and sea ports to detect heroin consignments. Many hundreds of Pakistani and foreign nationals, including a number of Britishers, were hauled up this year on charges of drug smuggling and were prosecuted.

Pakistan is not the only country from where heroin is smuggled into Britain. The countries of the "golden triangle" in the Far East, Burma and India are also sources of heroin supply. Cocaine is another hard drug which is smuggled into Britain in large quantities from the Afro-Caribbean region.

Hard drugs obey the laws of demand and supply. Shut off demand and there will be no supply. So long as there is demand for drugs in the UK, the drug gangs, mostly West-based, will go to any length to smuggle the drugs into the country. Because of the huge profits they make, as the nose lights in their operations in Pakistan, they are already turning to other pastures for heroin supply.

Yours faithfully,
ALI ARSHAD,
35 Lowndes Square, SW1,
October 15.

The Church's voice

From Dom A. J. Stapoole, OSB

Sir, It seems less than just that bishops of the Church of England, who are after all Christian citizens of the realm, Lords Spiritual with a parliamentary vote and members of the established historic episcopate, should suffer criticism for breaking silence (October 9, 10, 11, 12, 16) rather than enjoy an honoured voice in the affairs of the country as they touch the grey area shared by principles of lay and spiritual.

Canon John Halliburton (October 10) has invoked a precedent from 1926, which involved a bishop directly negotiating with miners and a Cardinal Archbishop speaking up. One reasonable view of the approval which greeted Cardinal Manning's direct, persistent and successful intervention in the London dock strike of 1889, till then the most important in the history of Labour, both Ben Tillett and Tom Mann spoke of the Cardinal's "kindly influence" which called out of them "the depths of primitive courage".

on behalf of hungry men - striking for an additional penny to the fivepence they received for an hour of labour, and in protest at one man's work being divided among several.

The Mayor of London brought in the Bishop of London (Frederick Temple) for their mediation, to join a strong committee of reconciliation, one of whom described how Manning "day after day from ten in the morning till eight at night spent interviewing, discussing, negotiating, sometimes waiting for hour after hour patiently but anxiously at the Mansion House".

Manning had to forbid the dockers from serenading his house during delicate negotiations. When at the last he alone drove down to the docks and pressed reasonable terms, he had to play his last card - an appeal to the consciences of the striking dockers' plenipotentiary. Eventually all sides signed "the Cardinal's Peace".

The dockers out of their pennies collected £160 for Manning, with

Merit marks for Czech prize winner

From Dr Benda and others

Sir, Today the 1984 Nobel Prize for Literature was granted to Jaroslav Seifert, who holds the official Czech title of "national artist". The work of Jaroslav Seifert, who last month reached the age of 83, is one of the peaks of modern Czech poetry, truly valued by several generations of readers. He is indeed a poet and artist of the whole nation, and not only in the sense of the official title.

Jaroslav Seifert is also an honourable citizen, and an opponent of every injustice, who has remained true to his principles even at the cost of official disfavour. We should remember that in 1969-70, during the forcible break-up of the Union of Czech writers, he was its last president. His public spirit was again displayed when he became a signatory to Charter 77.

The significance of Seifert's literary work is also testified to by the fact that, despite the hostility of the state powers, he could not be entirely driven from the national consciousness; indeed, after many years of delay, he lived to see his most recent work officially published, after circulating among his readers in illegible samizdat copies.

We value the offer of the Nobel Prize to Jaroslav Seifert, not only as a just recognition of a great Czech poet, but also as an encouragement to the entire unofficial culture of Czechoslovakia. We congratulate the poet, and thank him for his life's work, which has blessed our literature with such significant international recognition.

Yours etc,
VACLAV BENDA,
JIRI RUML,
JANA STERNOVA,
(Spokesmen for Charter 77),
Prague,
Czechoslovakia,
October 11.

From Mr K. Brusak and others

Sir, The awarding of the Nobel Prize for Literature to Jaroslav Seifert strengthens the belief held by many students of literature that the prize is becoming more and more a reward for mediocrity.

Engineer status

From Mr Arthur Palmer

Sir, In your supplement (October 5) on professional engineering in Britain, your contributors have touched only lightly on the shameful way in which Sir Monty Finiston's report was skillfully done to death by a combination of the "heavies" of the engineering establishment and a complacent minister. The blunt fact is that the engineer in Britain will remain a "poor relation" of the professional classes until engineering is given by Parliament the same statutory recognition accorded to say, law and medicine, as the Finiston Committee recommended.

Sir Monty and his colleagues worked extremely hard and collected within the pages of their report more information about the relationship of the engineering dimension to productive industry than ever attempted before.

There were excellent debates in both Houses of Parliament industry and the trades unions were enthusiastic and all expected Government action to follow. But it turned out to be a false dawn.

I make no party point, but after

Youth service

From the Chairman of the National Working Party of Young Volunteer Organisers

Sir, Voluntary and community involvement is alive and well, involving young people taking active and voluntary part in improving and changing their local communities. The recent call for a scheme of national community service (leading article, October 4), however, encouraged the view that young people are a problem to be solved by using them to serve the community.

Most would agree that compulsory national community service would be a fundamental interference with individual liberty. A voluntary scheme aimed at all young people, however, would create a similarly unacceptable climate of obligation.

The practicality of filling hundreds of thousands of places and issuing certificates of achievement to show a future employer would eventually remove young people's right to choose whether to take part or not. Yet, when given the choice, only 4 per cent of 16-18 year olds express a preference for community service rather than a job (42 per cent) or further education (40 per cent) (Spectrum, October 1).

National community service will endanger the wealth of existing local voluntary programmes, many of which provide a flexible experience to young people's own needs. Inevitably the community would be overwhelmed with cheap and sub-

standard labour carrying out routine task-centred activities under the direction of adults.

Why are the advocates of national community service detracting us from the fundamental goal of creating properly paid employment opportunities for all young people seeking work? Community involvement opportunities should be available to young people but not as an alternative to work or as low-paid work.

Existing youth action agencies and others seeking to develop community involvement with young people at a local level are often considerably under-resourced. Funding for such locally initiated and managed groups would be the most effective way of providing good opportunities for young people to creatively participate in their communities.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM MATTHEWS,
(Chairman,
National Working Party of
Young Volunteer Organisers),
The Old School House,
4 Effingham Road,
Reigate, Surrey.

the 1979 election, Mr Eric Varley, who had courageously appointed the Finiston Committee in the first place, was succeeded by an arch non-interventionist. Sir Keith Joseph, at the Department of State, seems to have been too glad to accept in place of a statutory engineering authority the present voluntary Engineering Council under Royal Charter.

I acknowledge the hard work done by Sir Kenneth Corfield and Dr Kenneth Miller, particularly in the educational field, but I am afraid that all that has been achieved is only a shadow of what might have been.

Yours faithfully,
Z. A. B. ZEMAN,
St Edmund Hall,
Oxford,
October 15.

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The real Melbury

From Mr Henry G. Button

Sir, It is true, as Mr Adrian Room states (October 15), that Lymeswold is a fictitious name whereas Melbury is not.

There is, however, a village in Leicestershire called Lymeswold where the Milk Marketing Board has a small creamery and from which the name Lymeswold was derived. William Clark, the Professor of Anatomy in Cambridge last century, from 1817 to 1866, became Vicar of Lymeswold in 1825.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY G. BUTTON,
7 Amhurst Court,
Grange Road, Cambridge.

Sauce of learning

From Dr John Hunter

Sir, I am alone among your readers in deploring the loss of that much loved and most piquant of French primers - the label on the HP sauce bottle?

It is unfortunate circumstances that there was nothing else to read at the breakfast table could always turn to the HP sauce bottle for a little French revision. It will be sadly missed.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. HUNTER,
Jaguranda,
The Street,
Frampton on Severn,
Gloucestershire.



Major Jack Stenhouse was
 andance.
 His Royal Highness, Prince
 the Prince of Wales's Adv

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MADE IN NEW ZEALAND
where the sheep come from

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12, 13
Travel: Alan Hamilton goes to Greenland in search of the 'hippo'; Sylvia Howe recommends two trips to Rome

14, 15
Values: Beryl Downing on the Chelsea Crafts Fair; Drink; Eating Out; In the Garden; and Out and About: Riding

THE TIMES Saturday

16, 17
Family Life: Embarrassing parents; Bridge; Chess; Concise crossword; Review: Squash and rugby videos; Galleries and Photography

19, 20
The Week: Critics' guide to Music, Television, Opera, Radio, Dance, Films, Theatre, Sport and Auctions

20-26 OCTOBER 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

It will begin early one May morning in Wiltshire... waking beneath the finest linen sheets, snug in the knowledge that for today, at least, the hours will stretch magically without hurry or fret. There will be a time for solitude and a time for companionship but, above all, no dread of the morrow

My Perfect Day

Number 5: Angela Huth

It would certainly never be in any city in the world, but in the English countryside. A small corner of Wiltshire, to be precise, where few people have reason to go. Time that brief moment in late May when summer has not quite unfurled, when the ivy on tree trunks is dark against new leaves. Place: the early eighteenth-century house of a friend, overlooking the most beautiful valley in England.

I would wake in a more minor four-poster than that required by Sir Roy Strong for his perfect awakening. No parklands without, but a very ordinary field where Jacob sheep grazed and where, miraculously, the clms had not died.

Sliding up through linen sheets so fine they were almost transparent, I would find breakfast served on that rare thing, these days, a breakfast-set of fine china. The one scattered with violets would be best. Coffee, wholemeal toast, just-ripe English peach. No papers. Instead, contemplation of the day ahead, knowing it to be a day in which the hours would stretch magically, in which there would be no hurry or fret, in which the only events to quicken the tranquillity would be of an entirely pleasurable kind. It would be that ideal combination of solitude and company - a day as effortless as the actual present as perfect days become in the past.

At my bedside, a bowl of "Maiden's Blush" roses and a radio on which there was no difficulty, ever, in getting Radio 3. Switch on Brahms Clarinet Quintet and, mornings being the best time of day, linger no more in bed. Weigh myself: have mysteriously lost half a stone in the night. Put on very old purple silk Caroline Charles shirt and exquisitely cut jodhpurs. Look definitely two inches taller.

Having learnt, in eight years of living alone, the rewards of a structured day - there's nothing like discipline to tidy up the hours - I would glide eagerly downstairs to carry out the first part of the plan. Which would be to work - for a shorter time than usual, but the perfect day must include writing at least a few lines.

So to my study - magically transported from home - and, first, to the post. Waiting on the

magnificent old desk inherited from my father would be a pile of real letters from some of those rare people who still believe in the art of letter-writing. I know only eight people who write keeplee letters: there would be word from three of them: Bernard Levin, describing a walk round Venice; Patrick Garland musing on the theatre; Candida Lycett-Green being as funny as ever. Also, a large parcel. Premature birthday present: that much longed-for Italian ice-cream making machine.

Work, achieving more in one hour than is usual in four. Only telephone call of the day from that most loyal of impresarios, Michael White. Yes, he says, to my next play.

Time for exercise. A saddled Arab mare awaits me at the front door. Of Bardot mane and tail, arching neck and flaring nostril, she's a gentle creature nonetheless, knowing I'm out of practice. Riding was something I never achieved in real life in Wiltshire: now, the steed effortlessly speeds up the slopes to the broad flat top of the Downs, a place I rate as beautiful and solitary as anywhere on earth. Gallop through the sky, aware of the far-away smudge of trees, the sepi glint of canal; skylarks above, cornfields below stretching like a frozen tide into violet distances. At the end of this ride through an eighteenth-century watercolour, a groom appropriately takes over. I should walk back, for the more familiar pleasure.

Waiting for me on the terrace would be my lunch guests, Isiah Berlin and Harold Pinter, already started on the Bollinger. I would invite them to share the gravadlax and Queen of Puddings, but otherwise would be a pretty poor sort of hostess.

For I would be almost invisible, entirely silent, wanting only to listen. They could converse with each other if they wished, but I should be happy just to hear them soliloquize, for the treat of hearing the English language used to its full and extraordinary capacity. But I hope they would enjoy themselves, too.

Now the quiet hour, and in

this perfect day my usual dread of the afternoon would have vanished. In the library I would pick my favourite magazine, *Country Life*, and from the thousands of books finally choose a leather-bound volume of *Persuasion*, and a book of William Trevor's short stories. Take them out to a hammock slung between two cherry trees. Read. Might doze.

Then, with a feeling of joy rather than effort, I would cast off the drowsiness of the afternoon. Time for sport. A suttering in the sky breaks the silence: the helicopter lands on the lawn. Am slightly worried the pilot might be overworked, taking so many others from this series to their dream places. But he assures me all is well. In fact he looks slightly disappointed that I only want to go to Wales but understands when I explain I want to see my favourite television programme.

And so off to the Welsh hills. On landing, I am greeted by Phil Drabble himself, of the ever-new tweeds and friendly face, standing in front of that weekly view of hills and valleys, distant water and mild skies.

We would join the small crowd of enthusiasts concentrating on one man and his dog: marvel at the thin high signal that the shepherd makes from mouth and hand, an invisible dart of communication to his dog, understood only by the two of them. By my side, Mr Drabble would keep up his low commentary, explaining it all, but leaving silences, too. The fact that he held a microphone, and his opinion was also being relayed to thousands of television viewers, would not matter at all.

The sheep are finally in the pen. There is a cheer, and the handsome shepherd briefly pats his dog, a very British gesture of understatement at a time of triumph. What a lovely hour: no wonder the programme is in BBC's top ten.

Very grateful to the helicopter, I am, because I've been trying to locate real sheep-dog trials for ages, without success. Back in Wiltshire for tea.

It's more of a garden party for one than conventional tea. I take my place on the terrace, on a bench plump with faded cushions that smell of past summers. Never having been of the opinion that tea is in the least bit refreshing, let alone



nice, I would find a glass of iced-coffee waiting, and a couple of English figs.

These, I appreciate, would have been specially forced to meet the afternoon in perfect ripeness.

Below, on the lawn, a silver band would be playing, the melancholy of their sound, however jolly the tune, thinning out across the valley. In these moments of reflection I would realize that on a perfect day there is no thought of its ending, or dread of the morrow. Every minute is as near tangible as time can be.

The band would only stop when a mild shower glittered down on to the garden. I would return to the house, cool now, shadowy. Great bowls of lilac would be in every room, early-flowering old-fashioned roses of shabby stripes on the dining-

room table. I would straighten a candle in a Queen Anne silver candlestick, perhaps inspect the stiffness of a damask napkin. Because even on a perfect day, when absolutely all thoughts of cooking, washing-up or having to think about food were obliterated, I might feel guilty if I did not make myself fractionally useful for about two seconds.

Rain stops tinselling down the vast window panes: back to the garden. Now is the time for scents to rise, for the earth to steam a little, the fountain to sound more clearly.

I used to think gardeners were terrible old bodes until I had a garden of my own: since then I've joined those who go on about their roses and their leaf mold and who are amazed by reflowering every single year.

Only members of this particular group will understand my love of an evening walk over the lawns, especially to the cottage-garden corners of lavender and honeysuckle, pinks and cornflowers. I believe an English summer garden after rain is far closer to heaven than any of that trumpeting about with *foie gras*.

On those rare occasions I'm not the cook I like changing for dinner: so now it would be upstairs to find Patricia of the Cadogan Club who has been battling with my hair and making me laugh for 25 years. She would magic it into her best Edwardian cottage-look to go with the Edwardian dress I found in Cheltenham - black satin encrusted with sequins and jet. Bath scented with Floris's Stephanotis bath oil. Dressed, I would find I had been lent Victorian amethyst earrings, and a diamond spray brooch, by Jones of Beauchamp Place.

would all be a delight to be in a corner with, but I shall not name them for fear of their getting asked to too many parties. The men would have to include those rarities, good dancers. (Actually, I would put up with a few nasty men if they were just for dancing.)

The entertainment would begin. First, Seamus Heaney reading some of his own poems. Then, because I love hearing stories from people whose youth was at the beginning of this century, Lady Diana Cooper and Frances Partridge would each tell inimitable anecdotes of their choosing. Sir John Gielgud would follow with readings from *Hamlet*. Finally, flown in from California - Fred Astaire in white tie and tails.

He would dance. Alone, at first. But, missing Ginger Rogers, his eyes would search

the guests. He would signal to me with a slight tilt of his top hat. I would join him modestly, knowing my hours of practice would not let me down. Ever faster we would tap and swirl. Suddenly, everyone joins in. There would be dancing of a very high standard, to the twenties sound of the Pasadena Roof Orchestra, until a Scott Fitzgerald dawn touched the windows.

They would all go quickly. Alone on the sofa by the fire of apple boughs I would listen to a recording of Jacqueline du Pre playing the Elgar Cello Concerto, fall asleep... only to wake in early autumn. At home. Husband just back from his perfect day (in the Bodleian). Both daughters there. Fire still alight. Reality.

But much less fun to describe.



Letters from Garland



Tales from Cooper



Thoughts from Berlin



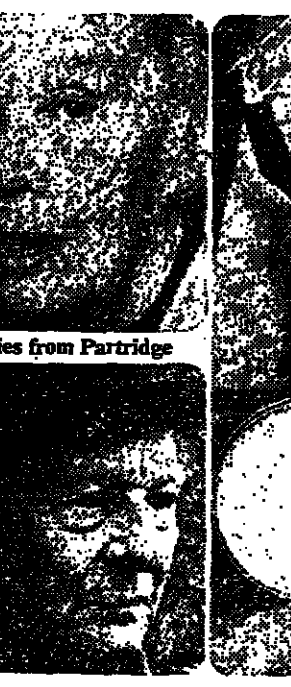
Pauses from Pinter



Afternoon entertainment from Drabble



Soliloquies from Gielgud



Shuffle from Astaire

Silver bands, silk shirts and a pot of gold

The best things in life are not necessarily free: sometimes, indeed, very far from it. Here is a rough attempt to cost Angela Huth's Perfect Day, from which it can be seen that her particular pleasures run from a few pounds to a few thousand. But she was, of course, only imagining. Breakfast sets are not as easy to come by as they once were, since china firms no longer make the large breakfast cups. However Thomas Goode and Son, of 19 South Audley Street, London W1 (01-499 2825) are able to offer a choice of several sets, in either bone china or porcelain. Herend, from Hungary, produce hand-painted porcelain with half a dozen different designs; but even, for only two people, a full set comprising the required plates, cups, teapot, milk jug and so on comes out at around £250. Cheaper are the bone china sets: Haddon Hall and Royal Worcester's Royal Garden, each with a floral design, and Coalport Countrywide, which is plain white. Angela Huth gets her Maiden's Blush roses from

David Austin Roses, of Bowling Green Lane, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire (090722 4659). In their catalogue the variety is described as "prior to the twentieth century" and as "fresh bluish pink, semi-double flowers, flat in shape with rich abundant perfume; a hardy, well-formed shrub with characteristic foliage". And all for £3.35.

"I am afraid they are not given away," said a woman at Caroline Charles, defensively revealing prices for their current range of silk shirts: £100 for a striped design and £110 (woven flower design). They do not quite have a purple one: the nearest is a "pinkish fuchsia that could be termed mauve". Caroline Charles is at 11 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (01-589 5850).

The Rolls-Royce of ice cream making machines is the IGT Gelato Chef, an Italian job costing £195. It has its own freezer unit and can make between one half and 1½ litres at a time, the process taking around 20 minutes. Fitted with automatic timer and overload

cutout and comes with a comprehensive recipe book. From Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (01-730 1234). For gravadlax, a delicacy from Sweden comprising salmon marinated in dill, Angela Huth recommends the Walnut Tree Inn, Llandwili Skirid, Gwent, Wales (0873 2797). It is three miles north of Aberavenny on the B4821, closed Sundays, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The restaurant has gravadlax on its current menu at £4.90 for a large portion and £3.90 for a small.

As for a silver band, who better than the Woodfalls? Based in the village of Woodfalls, nine miles south of Salisbury, they were formed in 1874, the year Winston Churchill was born, and have been champions of Wessex for the last six years. They are happy to play for private functions: fee negotiable and depends on length of engagement, amount of travel required and so on. Ask the chairman, Sam Cooper (0725 21087). The Cadogan Club belongs to

Patricia Thomas, who will come out by special arrangement. For a trip to Wiltshire to arrange Ms Huth's costume she suggests a fee of £100; a more elaborate assignment further away, say a wedding, might cost £250; a quick job in the London area £50. All plus travelling expenses. She is based at 182 Skene Street, London SW1 (01-235 3514).

Angela Huth tells us that the black satin Edwardian dinner dress cost £30 in an antique shop in Cheltenham. Anything similar in London, she reckons, would be double.

The jewelry is from Jones, of 52 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (589 3215). Ms Huth persuaded the company to lend it for the day but this is not a facility normally available. To buy, the pair of Victorian amethyst drop earrings with scalloped diamond surround costs £1,030 and the late eighteenth-century diamond spray brooch, set with tremulant flower in diamonds, is the little matter of £5,500.

Seamus Heaney's poetry is published by Faber and Faber. His two latest collections, out this week, are *Station Island* (hardback £5.95, paperback £2.95) and *Sweeney Astray* (hardback £6.95, paperback £2.95). Frances Partridge's book, *Memories*, is published by Gollancz and costs £10.95. The three volumes of autobiography by Lady Diana Cooper, *The Rainbow Comes and Goes*, *The Light of Common Day* and *Trumpets From the Steep*, are available as a single hardback from Michael Russell at £11.95 and are being reissued in paperback by Century Press on October 25 at £4.95 each.

Downtown - such luxury, not having to fret about putting out the ice - I would visit the picture gallery. With soaring glass windows an invisible barrier to the trees outside, it is like a small version of the Kröller-Müller museum set in a forest in Holland, which houses a vast collection of Van Goghs. Indeed, the dozen or so pictures would come from there, including "The Postman" and "The Potato Eaters". Viewing conditions would be perfect: natural light, silence, and favourite pictures to be enjoyed on my own.

Dinner guests arrive. Just a few friends without their dogs. They would have eaten a large tea to make up for what might not be their perfect dinner, but panders to my taste for starters and puddings: oysters, tomato sorbet, summer pudding and *crème brûlée* ice-cream - the first from my machine. We would drink Weingut Annaberg, that most heavenly of white wines introduced to me by a gentleman who keeps the finest cellar in Cornwall.

The guests would all be Great Natural Contributors. They would include a journalist whose Merry Tales from All Over the World would be a vicarious pleasure and make me feel even more pleased to be spending my day in England. Also, an eminent Fellow of New College - in my estimation the finest diarist since Pepys, unfortunately unpublished. But with the coffee he would give us some readings of Oxford life seen through his humorous and acerbic eyes.

The guests for the real party would arrive. It has always been my theory that the perfect party should not include any guest with whom another guest would not want to be stuck. This causes some offence but makes for a good party. My guests

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TRAVEL 1

On a visit to the cold coast of Greenland Alan Hamilton is awed by the glittering mountains and gets a warm lick from an old husky

Hippo hunting in the land of frozen fish



Novel nourishment: An Eskimo examines imported butter

Someone has been selling refrigerators to the Eskimos. It stood there in the supermarket, squeezed between the hunting rifles and the spare parts of deep-sea trawlers, the kind of freezer cabinet found in any Sainsbury's, but without a single fish finger in the frosty depths, only fish-shaped fish in plain plastic bags without hint of brand or weight: scowling cod, fierce-toothed catfish, pouting halibut, all with their life's last expression still attached.

To find not one, but four, supermarkets in the tiny town of Sisimiut on the forbiddingly remote west coast of Greenland was surprise enough: to have found fish fingers would have been an illusion shattered like pack-ice in the spring. Spotting a tin of Twining's Earl Grey tea on a shelf above the whale steaks came dangerously close. Perhaps it was just a tin, for worms.

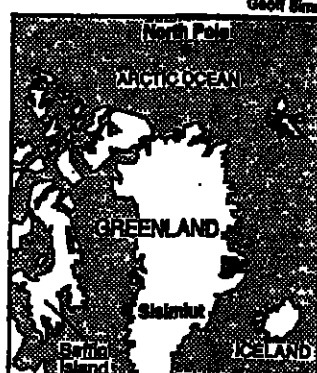
Here we were several degrees north of the Arctic Circle, on the edge of the world's largest island, the only land on earth outside Antarctica still shown as plain white from geographical ignorance. Had old Copper knickers not insisted that the world was round we could have looked west to Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic only 200 miles away. We were almost exactly halfway from Ealing Broadway to the North Pole, and we still could not entirely shake off what we are pleased to call civilization.

Frozen fish and English tea? Heavens, had the well-intentioned Danish colonists finally robbed the Eskimos - surely one of the most advanced of the human races to wrest life from such inhospitability - of their traditional hunting existence, drugging them with social security into the supine posture of helpless Europeans? The answer came at 4.23 in the morning: I know because I put the light on to see what had woken me up. The answer was no.

It was the dogs. Packs of them, from outside my window to the far side of town, baying in concert in the Arctic half-light that passes for August night, yelping and moaning at their empty stomachs and rattling their chains as though fretting to be off at the hunt. It was like living next door to the Battersea Wolves Home.

At dawn I strolled through the main street of Sisimiut, a hazardous undertaking as the Greenlanders' style of driving is as individual as their style of carving *tuplak* charms out of narwhal tusks. It is probably because they have so few roads to practise on. Sisimiut's main street goes from one side of town to the other and peters out at either end into the virgin tundra that patchily covers the bare black rock like a threadbare carpet - enough to defeat even the ubiquitous Japanese four-wheel drives.

And there they were, a pack of chained huskies outside



every house, and an upturned dog sledge sunning itself on the roof. Do not, they said, go up and pat them and say hello nice doggy, or they will have your hand off. But a Danish tax inspector introduced me to his retired team leader, a wise old fellow who licked my trembling palm as he rattled the chain.

Despite being thrust from the Stone Age into the Supermarket Age in less than a lifetime, despite being given paid employment in the fish factories and a nice flat in a hideous concrete block, the Eskimo has not quite let go the reins of atavistic memory. Every man still has his boat, and in the reindeer season they up sticks and vanish with dog sledge and gun to satisfy ancient instincts in the empty white interior.

But the native Greenlanders has not entirely escaped infection by European culture. Those unnaturally imprisoned in town dwellings seek solace in drink, and of the rubbish in the gutters of Sisimiut, 2 per cent is husky droppings and 98 per cent silver shoals of ring-pulls from beer cans.

There is as yet no drug problem to speak of, or so the local police chief hurriedly told me before disappearing on a 10-day, 150-mile walk across the trackless wastes, not for constabulary duty but for fun.

We picked our way down to the harbour, past a man on the quayside unloading a vanful of reindeer antlers for shipment to the Far East for grinding into prized aphrodisiac powder, and sought out the only small boat with a passenger licence, the 40ft cabin cruiser *Karina*. The obliging Danish skipper readily agreed to assist in our efforts to

emulate the Eskimo, and we puttered out of harbour into a keening polar wind in search of *Hippoglossus hippoglossus*. Hippo must have known we were coming, for it took us three days to find him.

I last stared Hippo in the face in the splendid aquarium of the Norwegian Marine Research Institute in Bergen, the only place I know that keeps a tame haddock.

Hippo, on the other hand, is the common halibut, prince of flatfish. Dangling his glinting pink and sadistic three-pronged hook over the gunwales of the *Karina* for three days on end, I began to feel he was anything but common.

My companion, a Dutch angler of vast experience and luck, hauled up an impressive array of cod, and Hippo's small cousin *Hippoglossoides rhenehoftii*, the little Greenland halibut, while I hooked some rather pretty seaweed.

It was on the second day, under a cloudless Arctic sky of achingly blue, that the Dutchman's rod suddenly arched like a willow wand and he engaged in titanic struggle with something on the other end. His nylon line of 50lb breaking strain was stretched to its limit as the beast was coaxed to the surface.

Not Hippo, but an enormous leopard catfish of majestic ugliness and ferocious jaws. "Could be a world record", shouted the excited Dutchman, hauling it aboard as we all took our legs well out of the way.

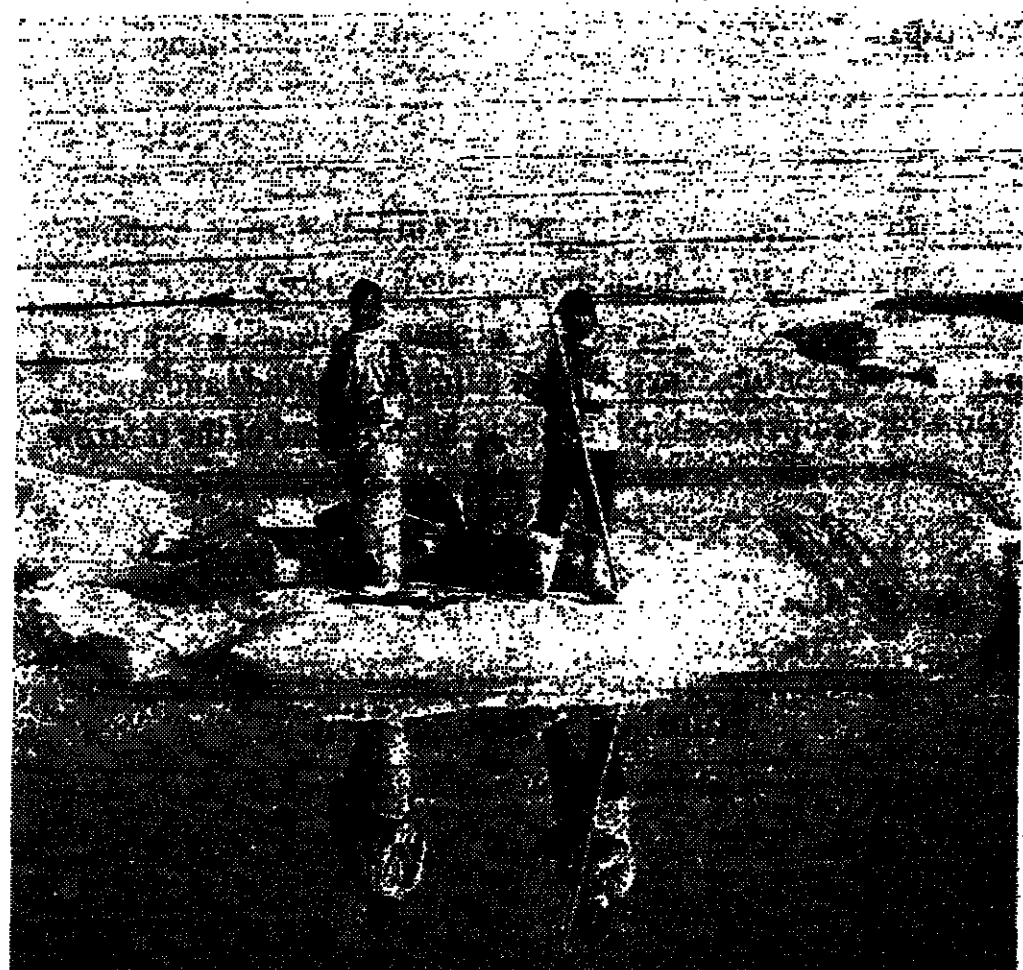
The next problem was to discover whether the world record had been shattered. The Greenlanders shrugged their shoulders; they caught fish to eat, not to weigh, and they had no idea what the Greenland catfish record was, if indeed such a record was ever kept. What we needed was an officially approved weighing machine, and of course a photograph.

The answer lay back in the fish factory, so there we repaired at dusk breathing through clenched handkerchiefs against a smell that would have a great future in chemical warfare. The scales showed 38lb, a monster but not, alas, a

maximum 28 days) for Dkr 4,000 (€300). The one-hour helicopter flight to Sisimiut is Dkr 1,340 (€103) return. Scandinavian Airlines, 52 Conduit Street, London W1 (734 4020).

The newly-built Sisimiut Hotel has 30 bedrooms and charges a minimum Dkr 420 (€32) for bed and breakfast. Set dinner is Dkr 40 (€3), but the restaurant can produce a remarkable variety of exotica from its deep-freeze, at prices to match. The motor cruiser *Karina* is available for hire at Dkr 500 (€38) per hour; it can accommodate fishing parties of up to 10.

Shanklin, Isle of Wight PO37 6AE (098-386-4212/4225) offer a package tour to west Greenland including two nights in Copenhagen, two in Sisimiut, four in Jakobshavn and one on board the Greenland coastal steamer *Disko*, for £930. A series of specialist fishing expeditions to Sisimiut is being planned for next summer by a leading Dutch fishing writer. For details contact Joop Koster, Liefkenshoek 40, 4817JZ, Etten-Leur, Netherlands.



Cool contemplation: Fishing in the traditional way

world record. The Dutchman, thinking better of lugging his noisome trophy home to Amsterdam, presented it to the factory; you may well find some of it in your next tin of Super Kittimunch.

Next day the serious anglers demanded a change of pace and of rod. *Karina* took us 20 miles up the wild empty coast to the banks of a sparkling river tumbling with crystal meltwater from the inland ice and positively stiff with trout. Fly-fishing is not for the uninitiated like me, so I left them to it and climbed a mountain.

The best guidebook ever written to Greenland is the first chapter of Genesis. It is the world on the evening of the fifth day, with the light divided from the darkness and the land from the sea, before God had created the beasts of the field; the virgin earth of a million years ago.

It is not beautiful in the familiar sense, for beauty is a blend and an interaction of subtleties. It is vast, awesome and primeval like no other place, endless rearing battlements of jagged mountain ridges glittering with dusted ice in the brilliant summer light. Both eye and mind begin to hurt with the effort of taking it all in.

I found shelter from the wind behind a rock, and lay down to bask in the surprising heat of the morning sun. In that cranny I heard a silence that was deafening: no wind, no bubbling river, no birds, nor even buzzing insects, no hum of life nor rustle of nature. My ears rang with the loudness of utterly still and empty air. Was it like this in the beginning, and will it be like this at the end?

Down below, the fly-casters had not been having much luck. The absence of insects meant the trout were not rising, but they had caught a dozen of its northern cousin, the Arctic char, the male in his brilliant breeding colours of metallic bronze and tomato red. As well, back to *Karina* for a final Hippo hunt.



Karina's catch: Happy Joop Koster with the elusive halibut

The Dutchman, fishing with a running boom, first employed a fillet of cod as bait, and pulled up one of the smallest halibut ever seen. He tried again, with a slice of cod belly with guts attached to give more smell, and within minutes the rod was arching, his hand frantically winding in the reel. A flash of white in the lead-grey water, and there he was: a splendid 16lb halibut.

We returned in triumph to the Sisimiut Hotel, a newly-opened small oasis of remarkable comfort in this barren land, and asked if they would cook our trophy for the following evening's dinner.

The dining room was full that night, four tables pushed together in the centre to accommodate the entire Greenlandic crew of a trawler and

their wives celebrating a highly successful haul. Prices in the Sisimiut Hotel are relatively high, but then so are the prices elsewhere, particularly Japanese, are prepared to pay for the harvest of the gin-clear Arctic seas.

The Eskimos made short work of medallions of beef and a chateau-bottled Burgundy each. We preceded the halibut with a terrine of duck, accompanied it with new potatoes, crisp green broccoli and an excellent Macon, and rounded off with a fruit dessert of fresh raspberries and peaches.

Indeed, *Hippoglossus hippoglossus* was the only item of food on the table that night not imported in a freezer ship from Denmark. The man who sold refrigerators to the Eskimos must be laughing all the way to the Bahamas.

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TRAVEL 2

The glories of Rome, in two trips

Rome is built in layers, and each layer has left some trace. What people tend to forget is that the last layer worth talking about was not the Renaissance, or the classicism of the eighteenth century, or even the debris from the influx of intelligent foreigners in the nineteenth.

It is fashionable to laugh at the Victor Emmanuel monument in the Piazza Venezia - to dismiss it as the "Wedding Cake". It isn't all that marvellous, but has just as much point as the memorials to the Caesars.

For fervent pilgrims from Britain, the temptation is to feel that sightseeing is the whole point of being in Rome, and trivial pursuits like shopping and eating are just by the way. I suggest you visit the city at least twice; certainly twice in quick succession. On your first visit, which should last about a week, you can gobble up all you can take of the past in undiluted form, until it no longer becomes palatable. You can spend hours in the Forum, armed with the *Blue Guide*. You can see the

Pantheon, the Baths of Caracalla, the Catacombs and rush to all the vital museums: certainly the ones of the Campidoglio. Go to the via dei Coronari and see the chapel there. You ring a bell and a nun passes you the key through a grill and turns on the lights. The early frescoes are very beautiful. So is the garden.

When you find yourself taking more time near the Fontana di Trevi than the Circo Massimo then you will know that concentration is slipping and it is time to take a rest, throw in a coin and plan your next trip out.

Until you do come back, you probably think of Rome as a walking history book - one great museum, with a bronze here, a bust there, and that Michelangelo is as modern as you are going to get.

No one has prepared me for what an immediate city it is, everything happens at once. And it is a pleasant surprise to discover that it is not expensive to eat out in, or travel around in, so everyone does

both. The salaries of Romans are low and many of them have two jobs, one of the reasons (perhaps) that all museums and government departments close at one or two in the afternoon.

Rome is not large. You can walk it quite easily, but taxis are not exorbitant, and meters tell the truth (don't hail them in the street; you pick one up at a rank). The underground is very limited, but buses are efficient; and both cost 400 lire (17p) a trip and you can buy a book of tickets.

Others report that Rome is a mass of twitching fingers, homing in on foreign female bottoms, or a bundle of hooligans who rip gold chains from unfamiliar necks. So clutch your bag to you, and remember to leave valuables behind.

The city is a wonderful colour - mixture of terracotta, brown and mustard with swags of greenery making a splash on higher terraces. Inside, pale grey marble and beige cool you down.

Sylvia Howe



Shopping
Leather is the best buy. Prices vary; if you want boots, expect to pay 200,000 lire on the Via Condotti by the Spanish Steps, 100,000 lire on the Via Nazionale and 40,000 lire on the Via dei Giubbonari. The boots may not be identical, but back in England the difference won't show. There is a market at the Porta Portese on Sunday mornings (be there by 8am) where you may find bargains. Handbags can be found at the above places, for similar prices. There is a shop in the Via Giustiniani Imperatore which,

apparently, is a marvel and prices there are 30,000 lire. My informant was very cagey about the exact address: get out at San Paolo station and look. Coffee must be bought from San Eustachio, near the Piazza Navona. Ice Cream is good from Glufit. Hand embroidered nightdresses, shirts and linen are very cheap from the Piazza di Spagna. Gloves from Anticoi, in the Piazza Venezia, among other branches. Ceramics, rather than gaudy souvenirs, from La Belle Coppia, in the Via dei Condotti. Wholemeal handkerchiefs from all over Italy.

Food
Look at the coperto. If it is more than 2,000 lire per person, then the restaurant is either grand or a tourist trap.

Da Pizzazzo, Piazza del Gioliano: Caesar was not killed in the Senate, but in the basement of Pompey's theatre. If the waiters are in a good mood, they may take you to see the (rather fresh-looking) bloodstains on the floor.

Chiara Luce, Ponte della Scafa, near the airport at Fiumicino: Extremely cheap at 8,000 lire a head and not at all grand, but the food is good. Judging by the licence plates in the car park, it is well liked by the local population.

Il Buco, Via della Ripetta: Solid Tuscan cooking; shut on Sundays. It is best to arrive early for lunch, as it starts filling up around noon.

L'au-yve, Via Montetone:



From pillar to basilica: The grandeur of St Peter's

There is a very cheap lunch available, with three set courses for 10,000 lire, but in the evening it is expensive. Cardinals are often to be found enjoying the food and at about 11pm a singing nun entertains! Abruze, Via del Vaccaro: Inexpensive at 10,000 lire a head; they rely on sausage for most meals but you may eat as much as you like. Ristorante Polesi, Via corso Vittorio: Modest, with good trenetti alla gorgonzola, and gammon steak (you may get a little tired of pieces of veal). Vecchia Roma, Piazza Santa Maria Campitelli: This restaurant has a nice atmosphere; expect to pay about 25,000 lire per person. Alfredo, Piazza Navona: Although it is quite expensive (about 30,000 lire) the cooking is good. Piccolo Mondo, off the Via Veneto in the Via Aurora: A smart and interesting nightclub. Numerous tour operators offer winter weekend and short break packages to Rome. Ask at your travel agent.

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IN THE GARDEN

Border beauty that spreads like wildfire



Easy to propagate: The humble periwinkle

Good soil and sunlight are vital for the successful cultivation of any plant, even the humble periwinkle which spread like wildfire once they are well bedded down.

The better the conditions, the better they will perform. In heavy shade, where they are often planted, they grow well but flower little. Best to plant in semi shade, such as the edge of a border or under the high canopy of mature trees.

Good garden soil will sustain strong growth. Thin soils are not ideal but if sandy soils are enriched with organic matter these plants will flourish. In fact almost any soil which is not waterlogged will allow this plant to grow well, though very acid or alkaline soils should be avoided.

Propagation is easy. If you have plants in the garden, close examination of the runner-like growths will reveal nodes where they have rooted into the ground. Lift these carefully, after first severing from the parent plant. Make sure you take all or as much of the new root system as you can so the plants have a good start. Well established plants or groups of plants can be divided to produce dozens of rooted nodes.

Cuttings are best taken in September although I often take them quite successfully in November. Growths about 6in

long are placed in boxes with an open soil mixture, the shoots inserted so that the cut made nearest the parent plant is deeper than the cut farthest away. In the early stages, while making roots, a cover over a cold frame would serve as protection. They can be potted or planted out once a reasonable root system has been formed.

Periwinkles are always in demand and nurseries such as Scotts of Merriott, Somerset list many of the varieties. *Viola major* is the greater periwinkle but it is anyone's guess whether this species or *Viola minor*, the lesser periwinkle, is the more commonly planted.

Recently there has been a trial of the forms of *Viola* at Wisley Gardens in Surrey and these are producing interesting results. *Viola major*, which is classed as a sub shrub, produces upright stems which will reach about 12in high. Spread of individual plants varies according to position but it is not unusual to expect plants to cover a square yard each. It has attractive glossy foliage out of which appear the purple blue flowers. The main flowering period is spring and early summer but there are often secondary flowerings in late autumn or early winter.

Viola minor has a more tuft type of growth than its near neighbour *Viola major*. In the

trial there are a number of new cultivars which may be hard to come by, unlike *Elegansissima*, correctly named as *Variegata*, the best of the forms of *Viola major*. The foliage on this plant is mid green with a distinct margin of cream round each leaf. The flowers are lighter in colour than the *major* and are lilac/blue.

Viola minor, the best ground cover, can be an invasive plant if it is not kept under control. It will reach about 4in high but as a rule stays closer to the ground. The runners tend to root more easily so new plants are constantly being formed. It flowers a little earlier but tends to go on longer. Flowers are purple blue.

Among the best forms of *Viola minor* is Miss Jekyll, now called Gertrude Jekyll. This has abundant white flowers and is from a more compact plant. *Viola minor* is also blessed with a number of forms with variegated leaves, the best of which was named in the trial as *Argenteo-variegata* (in catalogues it is seen under slightly differing names such as *Variegata*). This has blue flowers over leaves with a white or creamy edge. Another form *V. atropurpurea*, probably correctly named as *Atropurpurea*, has slightly larger flowers of purple with a hint of red.

Ashley Stephenson

Prepared to flower

Almost every household in the country will try to grow a few bulbs in pots for mid winter flowering. Bulbs are in the shops now and there are also a number which have been prepared for earlier flowering. These are called prepared bulbs. The best for pots are hyacinths and narcissus, but many others can be used although they rarely produce such good results.

The first essential is to obtain good quality bulbs. Go to a good firm or garden centre and make sure of this. Firms such as Blooms Bulbs of Watford are reliable. Bulbs must be kept in a cool place until such time as you can get down to potting them.

Compost comes next in importance. Do not go into the garden and dig up garden soil in which to pot the bulbs. This is rarely suitable but can be improved with addition of peat and sand to make it open and water-retentive. There are many good bulb composts or John Innes composts will do. The mixture must not be over rich,

so do not add fertilizers although it is acceptable to add bonemeal. The pot size will depend upon the number of bulbs you wish to plant. I am no lover of single bulbs in pots and prefer not to have less than three and if possible five or more. Narcissus, or to give them their common name of daffodils, can be planted with one layer of bulbs on top of another. Select a pot less than 8in diameter and place a little compost in the bottom, add daffodils on about 1 1/2 in of soil. Cover these with more compost and then add another layer of bulbs. In a big pot you will get at least 12 bulbs which, despite being at different levels, will all flower at the same time. Hyacinths do not lend themselves to this kind of treatment although some people do grow them successfully this way. Place the pot either in a cool dark cupboard or ideally plunge them outside in a peat bed, the cold will not affect them. They need at least eight weeks in the dark before bringing them into heat to force into flower. Before plunging give the pots a good watering.

Stately and shapely

One of the joys of gardening is the variety of shape and form in plants; the Yucca is one of the beauties. Its leaves vary in shape and size but the overall effect of the plant allows the designer to use the outline to add a new dimension to the garden. Yuccas belong to the lily family; the flowers place it in this group, but the resemblance ends there. Rosettes of long strap-shaped leaves, arising from a woody stem, give the plant an architectural look, growing at an angle of 45° or more. They are not fully hardy and are best sited in well-drained soil since it is not cold or frost alone which will kill them, but cold in conjunction with wet ground. Any good, well drained soil is suitable. Yuccas need to be deeply rooted so, that they can obtain soil moisture; for this reason sandy soils may be better than wet or heavy soils. Full sunlight is important and they should not be planted where they have to struggle to find good light. Protection from driving and cold winds must also be considered. In general they are trouble free and



The Yucca filamentosa

no particular cultivation is necessary to enable good plants to be grown. The common name of Adam's Needle refers to varieties with spine tipped leaves. Yucca filamentosa is about 3ft high. Y. gloriosa and Y. repens will reach 8ft. Gloriosa is in flower now, but recurvifolia is almost over. Plants cost about £5 each.

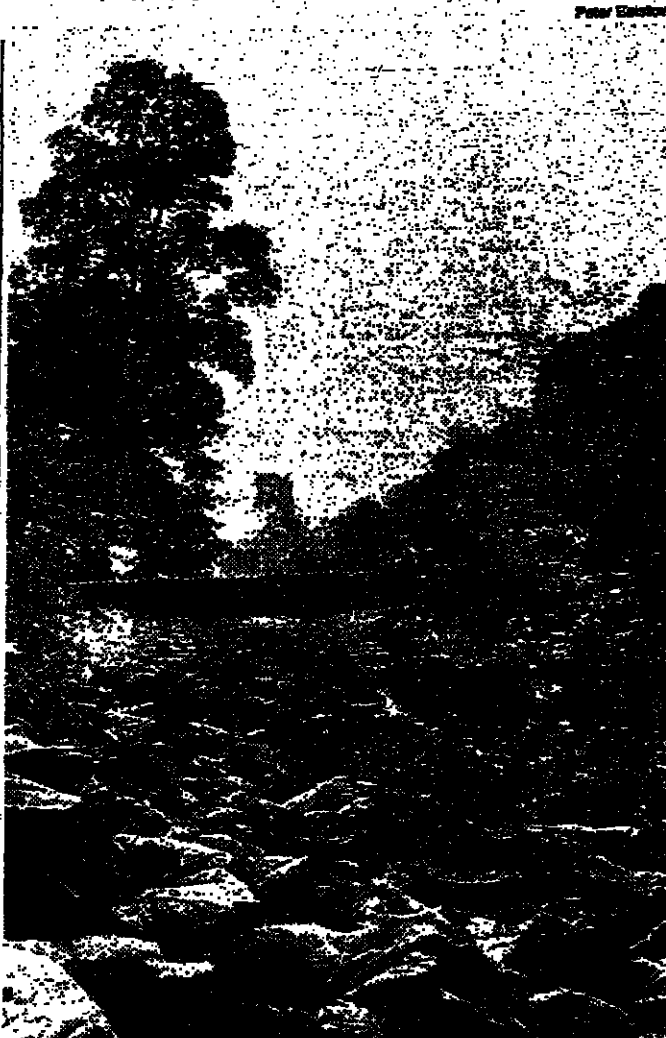
Fruity future

Once the weather begins to show signs of turning cold and frosty it is time to bring fruit indoors.

Pick them carefully, lifting the apple or pear in the small of the hand and breaking it off by the stalk, applying some pressure if necessary. It is vitally important to be very gentle with the fruit, however; do not break the skin with the finger nails, and place it in a basket rather than dropping it in.

Have a good look for insect or fungus damage and use any fruit affected first. Do not store fruit which is damaged; this is what starts storage rot. Use a cool, frost-free shed, garage or the cellar to store it; for apples there should be a small amount of atmospheric moisture. Pears like to be drier but as cool as apples.

Pears should not be wrapped; they are usually stored in single layers and should never be piled on top of each other. As they pass their best quickly, do not neglect them or you could miss them as they ripen. Stored fruit must be inspected every week.



Ruins and reflections: The tranquil gardens of Stadel Royal



An amateur makes use of economy

Stadel Royal in North Yorkshire was perhaps the first truly English garden, free from Dutch influence, built not by a garden designer but by John Aislable, a discredited Chancellor of the Exchequer, in 1715 - the year Capability Brown was born.

The ingredients of Stadel Royal are simple: native trees, water and turf, with the occasional neoclassical building to act as a counterpoint, emphasizing that this is a contrived landscape designed to evoke a mood of contemplation. Aislable dammed the River Skell which runs through the valley to make a formal, elegant canal. To one side of this canal he created the geometric Moon ponds, one circular and two crescent-shaped. These great sheets of water reflect the trees that cling to the valley slopes. On a raised terrace adjacent to the ponds is a touch of genius - a small Doric temple, which drops its reflections deep into the water along with the anthers and stamens of the clematis and the cypripedium.

From the ponds the canal flows gently along the valley to become a foaming cascade as it falls between two small buildings into a large pool.

Aislable's son, William, purchased the ruins of Fountains Abbey and incorporated it in the overall vista. This ancient Cistercian abbey is a most remarkable romantic collection.

Two other gardens in the vicinity also offer good autumn colour: Harlow Carr and Harwood House. Harlow Carr is a botanical garden and it is astonishing to think that it is only 30 years old; Harwood House is a Capability Brown landscape surrounding an eighteenth century house. Here are terraces, woodland walks and water garden with a lake that has none of the neoclassical rigidity of Stadel Royal and thus seems to fold itself discreetly among its flanking trees.

Michael Young

Stadel Royal, Ripon, North Yorkshire. Open daily, 9.30am-4.30pm. Admission: adults £1.30, children 50p. Harlow Carr Gardens, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, off A59. Open daily 9am-dusk. Admission: adults £1.20, children free. Harwood House, Harwood, West Yorkshire. Open daily until end of October. 10am-dusk.

EATING OUT

Going back up with a taste for excess

This week we make Oxford the subject of our guide to eating out for students who are hungry not only for learning

If the colour supplements and glossy magazines are to be believed, Oxford has rediscovered its golden age over the past couple of years. Judging by the number of BMWs and Volvo estates disgorging bespoke student luggage last week, this year's freshmen seem likely to sustain the trend toward conspicuous excess.

First port-of-call then should be Le Petit Blanc in the northern suburbs of the city. The *jeunesse dorée* may pale a little when they see the setting for this restaurant - a shopping parade - but once its antecedents are known, anxieties should be calmed. Until a year or so ago, this was the famed Les Quat Saisons which, under the guidance of Raymond

Blanc, its brilliant young chef, gained a reputation as one of the best and most innovative restaurants in Britain.

Success led to the inevitable move - to a manor house outside Oxford - but M. Blanc has kept on his former premises (hence the name) and his style still infuses the cooking of John Race, the new chef. In truth, the interior of the restaurant is rather soulless, despite the pretty coloured table-cloths and Parisian prints, and the absence of any music induces an artificial hush to conversation.

This may of course be a direct result of reverence for the food which, by and large, is very good indeed. Certainly you would have to cross the Channel to enjoy the quality and variations of the three-course lunch, which at £16.50 includes a kir, canapés, coffee and petits fours, but not wines or service.

At least six or seven choices are offered at each stage of the meal, remarkable considering the price constraints. Among the starters, there is an obvious liking for light terrines and mousses - a hot gâteau of Jerusalem artichoke surrounded by a highly complementary watercress sauce; or perhaps a terrine of scallops studded with oysters.

Even the only soup course - cream of mussels, scented with



Christ Church, Oxford

saffron and coriander and garnished with small quenelles of brill - gives a clue to the house style with its central "idea" embellished by small but imaginative touches.

Among the main courses, the subtlety is maintained by saddle of rabbit with a rabbit liver mousse and a white wine sauce spiced with seed mustard and tarragon; the imagination sparkles again with lamb shanks stuffed with a sweetbread quenelle and wrapped, Japanese-style almost, in spinach leaves. The attention to detail is so total that the accompanying vegetables for each dish are designed to complement, rather than being just an amorphous selection.

Minor disappointments were the rather ordinary bread - there is a Blanc bakery - and the cheeses, which, although from Olivier of Boulogne, seemed rather dominated by pungent specimens from the Auvergne. With wines varying from £5.40 to over £29 a bottle, you should be able to find one to suit your pocket and if it's any use to modern language students the French waitresses are eager to speak their native tongue.

If you cannot afford to eat at Le Petit Blanc throughout term, good pub food at reasonable rates is available all week at the Nag's Head - home made pies, grills, Lancashire hot-pot with red cabbage, chocolate sponge are complemented by excellent Guinness, a jolly landlady, a pleasant view of the willow-clad riverbank and a juke-box which caters for tastes as diverse as Jimi Hendrix and the Style Council.

For more stylish, but equally reasonably-priced meals, Brown's, a spacious, colonial-style bar and restaurant, is exemplary. Great 6oz burgers with bacon or cheese, charcoal-grilled turkey breast, a peasant's pot (with pork, chilli and beans) and club sandwiches match the excited, youthful atmosphere.

Rather more staid afternoon teas or sandwich lunches can be enjoyed in Raffles, a small but tasteful tea-room in the basement of the House of Tweed - rum truffle cake, or scones, cream and jam, and fragrant tea will transport you to the days of *Brideshead Revisited*.

Stan Hey

Le Petit Blanc, 272 Banbury Road, Oxford (0865 53540). Open: Tues-Sat 12.15-2.15pm; Mon-Sat 7.15-10.15pm.
The Nag's Head, 182 Hyde Bridge Street (0865 249153). Open: pub hours; for food, daily noon-2pm and 6-8.45pm.
Brown's, 5-9 Woodstock Road (0865 511955). Open: Mon-Sat 11am-11pm; Sun noon-11pm.
Raffles, The House of Tweed, 90 High Street (0865 241855). Open: daily 10.30am-4.30pm.

A brisk trot in Robin Hood's tracks

One story relates that Robin Hood used the place as a retreat. Chased out of his usual haunts at Nottingham, he sought safety on the bay on the east coast of Yorkshire now bearing his name, keeping a boat there for a quick escape by sea. Another tale suggests the Abbot of Whitby offered Robin a king's pardon if he would rid the coast of pirates.

The settlement of Bay Town, as it is known locally, is in fact a lot older than Robin Hood. The large mounds of Robin Hood's butts at the south of the village are burial mounds from the Bronze Age, and there is evidence of Saxon, Viking and Roman civilization before the existence of the outlaw in the thirteenth century. But the romantic legends are hardly necessary to enhance a place that has more than enough natural beauty and picturesque charm of its own.

One of the oldest houses in the district, with a family history dating back to the eleventh century, is Farsyde Stud, from where we start our ride. The Farsyde family first came to Britain at the time of the Norman conquest. James I made John Farsyde Ranger of Pickering Forest, and it was his grandson who settled at Farsyde House on the cliff above the bay, the site of the present riding school.

We started our ride along a private path, through Farsyde farm, to the south of the town, and past a former corn mill - Bay mill - which belonged to the Farsyde family and was water operated until 1928. It is now Boggie Hole youth hostel. The route leads alongside a stream, Mill beck, which splashes onto the beach from a

narrow valley. A footbridge crosses the beck and the path leads on to Stoupe beck, but we continued down to the sea.

Care is necessary on the beach here. The incoming tide fills up Mill beck very quickly, and to the south of the stream the only safe periods are an hour each side of low water.

At low tide the bay is corrugated with long rocky ledges or scars (the word comes from the Norse *sker*, meaning rock). Geologists hunt on these scars for fossils, while children paddle in the pools for tiny crabs. The area is rich in coloured pebbles, some carried by glaciers from Scandinavia during the Ice Age.

Many species of seabirds can be seen as you ride across the bay, including herring gulls, fulmars and cormorants as they scream and mew above the cliff ledges. On the shore the rock pools and crevices are rich in sea urchins, lugworms, sand eels, and occasionally a baby octopus. Limpets speckle the rocks, and you can also find sea anemones.

Set back above the shore is the old coastguard station, originally planned as a deterrent to smugglers before it became solely concerned with saving life. Now only a voluntary service operates. Shipwrecks used to be common in the nineteenth century, gales often driving ships onto the head-

lands, and stories of vessels being lifted onto rocks by flashing lights figure highly in the local folklore.

Our route along the beach was to the north, towards Bay Town, approaching the town at its Elizabethan end. The area is a labyrinth of narrow streets and alleys, a jumble of brightly painted cottages with flower boxes, small wooden porches and tiny windows set in steep roofs. The houses are close together, and linked with short flights of steps or cobble slopes, apparently because the women wished for company when their husbands were away at sea.

There are remains of houses which have sunk into the sea, some only recently, while nearby, in King Street - originally the town's main street - is the congregational chapel where John Wesley preached, and the seventeenth century house which was the boyhood home of Yorkshire novelist Leo Walmsley. His book, *Three Fivers*, describes the bay in detail, although the names have been changed (Bay Town, appropriately, to Bramblewick, owing to the abundance of blackberries in the area), while another novel, *Foreigners*, describes his childhood life in the village.

Most of the houses in the old village are listed buildings, many having deeds dating from

the time of Cromwell. The horses' hooves echoed along the cobbled streets as we trotted across the Dock, an open space crowded with boats, fishing nets, and crab pots. The bay used to be known as one of the best crabgrounds of the northeast coast, as well as being associated with the boat-building of Whitby in the eighteenth century (it was in this region that the *Endeavour* was "converted" for Captain Cook's voyage to Australia and the south sea). Later it became a centre for smugglers and the press gang. Salt was smuggled in large quantities, as well as silk, tea, spirits, and tobacco, and some of the old houses are linked by cupboards and blocked-up holes in the walls through which contraband could be passed.

We rode on past the Laurel Inn, and up to the steps at Bank Top, and the car park. From here you have the best views of the bay, and it is worth a pause. We returned via a disused railway track, part of the old Whitby to Scarborough line, now an official bridle path.

Farsyde today is a private stud farm. Angela Green, and her husband, Victor, a racing journalist, have owned a stud for 27 years, and first came here 11 years ago, converting what is now Farsyde Mews from a former stone barn. As well as stallions, mares and foals there is a herd of Hereford cows and calves, laborers are bred, and there is always a donkey or small pony available for "tiny children to make friends with". As I prepared to leave, I overheard an aggrieved young voice cry from the paddock: "I was Little John, last time!"

Anne Whitehouse

You can rent a cottage or caravan and book riding on a daily basis, or book a complete holiday. Low season prices (from end of September): Cottage - £250 per week, or £10 per night; caravan - £45 per week.
Hacking: £3.50 per hour, adults. Instruction and jumping lessons also available, using outdoor

manages, how jumps, and cross country course.
Riding weekends: From £25 (two days riding, two nights accommodation). Visitors may also bring their own horses (£8 per week, bed).
Angela Green, Farsyde Stud and Riding Centre, Robin Hood's Bay, Whitby, Yorkshire (0947 880249).

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Westwood



Riders at bay: Legend has it that Robin Hood kept a getaway boat in the Yorkshire-bay now bearing his name

VALUES

Once a fringe event, now an institution – that is the rags-to-riches story of the Chelsea Crafts Fair. Beryl Downing picks the best from this year's stalls

Craft masters

Sitting pretty: Adrian Reed (left) designed the Suzy Stool when still at the Royal College of Art. It was so much admired by Robert Banks MP, that he set up a factory to make it. In chair height at £27.50 or counter height at £29.95 it folds flat for storage. Available in natural beech or stained red or black from Princes Design, 83-87 Rotherhithe Street, London SE16 (01-232 1602) and on view at stand 4.

Fun and Games: Caroline Slinger (right) with one of her colourful picture rugs. The snakes and ladders are in pink and yellow on a background of red, black and grey. £200. Commissioned designs are from £20 per square foot. Heady stuff: Wide-brimmed crinoline hat (below) in black and gold straw, £55 designed and made by Jane Smith and modelled by jewelry designer Nikki de Groot.



Like a pauper who turns into a prince, the Chelsea Crafts Fair has undergone a magical transformation. From humble beginnings it has grown into one of the most important events in the crafts calendar. Items on show this year range from textiles to toys and silver to stencils – old skills combined with new ideas.

The fifth fair, which opened on Wednesday, is a far cry from the first event, held at the Geoffrey Museum in Hackney in 1978, when there were 30 stalls and takings amounted to less than £2,000. Now, four years after the move to Chelsea, the 150 stalls are expected to net more than £300,000 from trade as well as private buyers. It is an object lesson in how to turn a fringe event into a Great British Institution.

Much of the credit for this must go to Lady Powell, the organizer, for it has taken boundless energy, a good deal of cajolery and not a little bullying on her part to achieve the standard of workmanship she wanted to attract. The Crafts Council gave support from the modest beginnings, but the craftsmen themselves were hesitant.

"For years I had to argue and twist arms to make people take

part and, then I had to make sure they brought something decent and not old rubbish they wanted to get rid of," says Lady Powell.

"But the attitude has changed completely in the past two years. The knowledge that the show was going to be good created a different atmosphere and the people taking part have given a lot of thought to the way they present their stands and the work they make specially for the occasion."

This year's selection shows a strong bias towards textiles and knitwear, which reflects the fashion interest in both subjects. Batch production furniture, another countrywide trend, is being shown for the first time at rather lower prices than some of the one-offs of previous years.

The gaps are in studio glass and pottery – only four glass exhibitors, which considering the tremendous surge of creati-

ty in techniques is a mean showing, particularly as Anthony Stern and Charlie Meaker are there to give the section status. One possible explanation is that many young glass artists work on a sell-one-make-another basis and cannot afford to produce dozens of pieces specially for one show.

The reason for the paucity of potters is different. Top potters, says Lady Powell, are snobs.

"British potters are world beaters, but they insist on being in a top class museum setting and refuse to be chaps who stand on an ordinary selling market when they have collec-

tors abroad waiting for every piece they make. If they did come, I know they would do brilliantly."

So you won't find Lucie Rie or any of the Leachs, but neither will you have to pay £800 or so for one pot. Moreover, despite the lack of international names, some of the work on show is extremely collectable. Look, for instance, at David Robert's sculptural raku bowls and big-bellied vases – all between £120 and £165 on stand 5 – and at Stephen Jones's small pots and dishes with iridescent crystalline lids – a nineteenth-century technique he has revived and

perfected. They are on stand 57 and prices are from £15.

New to the fair this year are hats by Jane Smith, to be found on stand 6/7. She began her career as a designer for the theatrical costumers. Nathans, went on to design hats for boaters for Laura Ashley 10 years ago and has been making hats for her shops ever since – seeing them sported by such stars as Sophia Loren and Audrey Hepburn.

Her first carpets were hand hooked; then she discovered the tufting gun which she uses to "paint" her canvases before sculpting the pile with cattle clippers to create another dimension. "I took a piece of carpet to an agricultural shop and tried all the shears before I found that cattle clippers were much better than sheep shears. The man thought I was mad."

Caroline Slinger will design any rug to commission and now has a dye laboratory where she can produce any colour to order. Inquiries after the show to Canal Workshops, Whipcord Lane, Chester (0244 378 766).

There is a good deal of knitwear and fashion at the show – a trend which needs to be carefully supervised as too many clothes squashed into confined spaces can look tatty, whatever the quality of each item.

Certainly not tatty and well worth close inspection are Ann Fewless's jumpers, knitted with ceramic beads and ribbon – the results of meeting a potter and a Japanese braider at a previous fair. Stand 2/3, prices £110 to £450.

Angela Musil's hand-painted silk scarves and lace-knit silk shawls would make splendid presents (stand 41). She has a superb colour sense and the shading is much more subtle than can be achieved with dyeing. Prices are around £38.50 for a 11ft x 6ft scarf, £26.50 for a one-yard silk square.

Equally attractive are a luxurious shawl, handspun in cashmere and silk for £90, or a smaller cashmere scarf at £45 – the softest strands ever to stroke your neck. They are by Geraldine St Aubyn Hubbard, who dyes and weaves all her own fabrics from light silks to coal-weight tweeds. She undertakes commissions at 2 Charlton Court Cottages, Mouse Lane, Steyning, West Sussex.

Some of my favourite craftsmen are also at the fair. They include Lyn Le Grice, showing her newest stencil, Cornish Thrift, inspired by her recent move to St Buryan, £8 with a ribbon leaf border (stand 47/48), and David Plagerson, who has this year added doods, skunks and unicorns to his painted Noah's ark collection (£8.50-£10 each) (stand 68).

The Chelsea Crafts Fair is at the Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, London SW3, until Tues, 11am-5pm. Admission £1.50.

SHOPFRONT

Bath is never short of fun and games to while away the winter and this season there will be double rations. In addition to Tridias there is now a branch of Hamleys of Regent Street which opened at Midsom Street last week – its first store out of London.

There are three floors selling the ranges of dolls, soft toys, games, construction toys and novelties carried in Regent Street.

Laura Ashley is also branching out again – this time to Peterborough's Queensgate shopping centre. Her sixty-ninth shop will open there on October 31, selling all the fashion ranges, accessories, perfumes and furnishings, which now include made-to-measure blouses and curtains and made-to-order sofas and armchairs.

In business

For those thinking of setting up their own business there is a new advisory service which could prevent some very expensive mistakes.

The Small Business Network offers expert advice on raising capital, cash flow, financial forecasting, marketing, solving partnership problems and other aspects of business procedure. The first two hours' consultation on any one of these subjects costs £50 and further charges vary between £20 and £30 an hour, either at the Network's offices or at the client's premises.

For more details contact the Small Business Network at 32 Great Brunswick Street, London W1 (01-437 1454).

Silver lining

An unusually fine exhibition of nineteenth and twentieth-century decorative and novelty silver opens on Tuesday at 26 Conduit Street, London W1.

Nicholas Harris, who opened the shop 18 months ago, is a believer in style rather than in names ("any fool can read a signature, but it takes a little more brain to read a style"); nevertheless he has managed to collect more signed examples of top silversmiths of the period than specialists who have been dealing internationally for many years.

Most of the pieces in the show are rare and are distinctive. There are no less than seven pieces by Gilbert Marks, whose work is usually seen in Guitahalls and major museums, and the star exhibit is an icon of Christ in silver and enamel, by Alexander Fisher, who was a leading luminary of the Arts and Crafts movement. The piece is inscribed "The Balfour to Macleane Wyndham", and is certainly a museum piece at around £7,000.

There are less important items – prices start at about £224 for a small caddy spoon – but all the pieces have a fascinating history and are certain to interest collectors, established or just beginning. The exhibition will continue to the end of November, Mon-Sat 11am-5pm.

DRINK

The right climate for Cabernet

The Cabernet Sauvignon grape produces my favourite red wine – and I don't just mean claret. It has adapted to all sorts of different climates, soils and winemaking techniques, and the classic Cabernet character is rarely absent from the results. The grape variety that provides the strongest competition for the red wine crown is Burgundy's Pinot Noir but it is moody and temperamental and so far to my mind has only produced truly classic wines in America's Pacific North West and New Zealand.

Cabernet Sauvignon's list of successes on the other hand includes every major wine producing area including America, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Eastern Europe, Lebanon and Greece as well as France. To be fair, the Cabernet Sauvignon grape is a late ripening variety and appreciates a warm climate unlike the Pinot Noir which buds early and prefers a cooler climate.

The hallmarks of the Cabernet Sauvignon when young are a distinctive grassy taste not unlike the character found in its white relative, the Sauvignon Blanc, backed up by a blackcurrant flavour redolent of Ribena. As the deep purple black Cabernet Sauvignon grapes are

noticeably smaller in size than other red grapes it is not surprising that the wines they produce are full of tannin. Such a high level of tannin can make them appear somewhat austere when young but it enables the finest ones to mature for 10, 20 and often 30 years or more.

As it matures the Cabernet Sauvignon takes on a very fine spicy cedarwood character – a trait much appreciated by claret fans on this side of the Channel. The French eschew such eccentricities, preferring their clarets full of aggressive young fruit; their wine lists are top heavy with two and three year old vintages which they are happy to broach now.

Claret is of course the classic wine produced from Cabernet Sauvignon but much of the New World's wine producing prestige has stemmed from other products of this grape variety. It is also intriguing to note that the Bordeaux traditions of rounding their austere Cabernet Sauvignon wines off with a little of the softer, fruitier Merlot and Cabernet Franc varieties is now catching on elsewhere and producing some promising results. New Zealand's Te Mata Cabernet, for instance, rounded off with Merlot and Cabernet Franc, and California's Opus One, similarly constructed.

A good example of a straightforward young Cabernet is Harvey's 1981 No 1 Claret with its bright purple colour and fruity bouquet coupled with that typical youthful austerity (John Harvey & Sons, 27 Pall Mall, London SW1, and 12 Denmark Street, Bristol £3.15; Victoria Wine £3.65).

If you want to taste a first-class claret from a first-class year try British-born Peter Sichel's 1978 Chateau d'Angludet. This is simply a *crû exceptional* rather than a *crû classe* but with its full purple colour plus a rich grassy bouquet and classic cedary taste

it clearly demonstrates that Angludet is a match for many a classed property (John Harvey & Sons £7.69).

There are so many really outstanding Cabernets made in California now that it is hard to pick out just one but Robert Mondavi's 1978 with its intense blackcurrant smell and taste coupled with that herbaceous note underneath is worth trying (Wine Studio, 9 Eccleston Street, London SW1, £8.75).

Australia is also making some fine Cabernets and the 1980 Renmano Chateau's Selection Cabernet Sauvignon from the

Riverland north of Adelaide is a real treat with its handsome garnet colour taste (Vintners Wain, 14 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1 £4.65).

Other European countries apart from France also make good Cabernet Sauvignon and one of the most spectacular is Sassicaia – a Tuscan Cabernet whose production is supervised by Marchese Piero Antinori and is one of the best Italian reds. La Vigneto (105 Old Brompton Road, London SW7) stocks the '80 for £9.85 and Harrods stocks the '79 for £11.

Jane MacQuitty

66 199

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COLLECTING

Japan's mastery of the miniature

If you have ever thought of collecting Japanese netsuke carvings, or merely experienced a desire to know more about them, London next week offers an incomparable opportunity to learn or buy. The London International Netsuke Convention 1984 opens tomorrow at the Park Lane Hotel and related events are scheduled all over the capital for the enjoyment of the netsuke collectors who are pouring in from all over the world.

At its best, netsuke carving is the most brilliant form of miniature sculpture, but it began with a specific practical purpose. Pockets were not favoured in traditional Japanese dress and personal belongings—money, tobacco or anything else—were kept in pouches suspended by cords from the sash. The netsuke was a toggle or button which prevented the cord from slipping through the sash.

Artistry was first lavished on them in the seventeenth century when a wealthy class emerged in Japan ready to pay large sums for fine craftsmanship. Netsuke are first mentioned as an art form in the 1690s but it was not until the eighteenth century that named carvers began to be sought out for their individual genius.

Wonderful animal carvings were made by the Kyoto school in the eighteenth century and the Osaka school in the nineteenth. The nineteenth-century carvers were, if anything, more skilful than their predecessors, carving intricate, often humorous, figure subjects as well as animals.

Following the opening of Japan to the West in the late nineteenth century and the gradual adoption of western dress, the demand for netsuke as a practical item diminished and many carvers turned their hands to closely related sculpture. Still mainly using ivory or wood, the pieces are larger and without the limitations imposed on a netsuke intended for wear—a notably a compact shape without any spiky or fragile projections.

The last decade or so has seen a revival of netsuke carving, both in Japan and elsewhere and many netsuke collectors are adding a few contemporary pieces to their collections—made in the traditional form, but not primarily for use. Britain has two highly successful contemporary carvers in Michael Webb and Michael Birch, the former carving western animals in traditional Japanese style and the latter translating the motifs of twentieth-century western sculpture into miniature netsuke style carvings.

All of this and much more can be discovered by visiting the various netsuke events at the convention. At the Park Lane Hotel 13 netsuke dealers, mainly from abroad, have gathered to exhibit their finest wares. They come from Miami, California, New York, Paris, Zurich, Brussels and Vienna.

Four London dealers have mounted special exhibitions in their galleries. Eskenazi, Spink's, S. L. Moss and Barry Davies, while both Sotheby's and Christie's have organized evening auctions.

A visit to Christie's provides a special extra attraction, an exhibition (not for sale) of a selection of 100 netsuke from the collection of Raymond Bushell. Bushell is a lawyer who went to Japan in the war and stayed. He has written several books on netsuke and has one of the world's greatest collections. It has never previously been exhibited outside Japan.

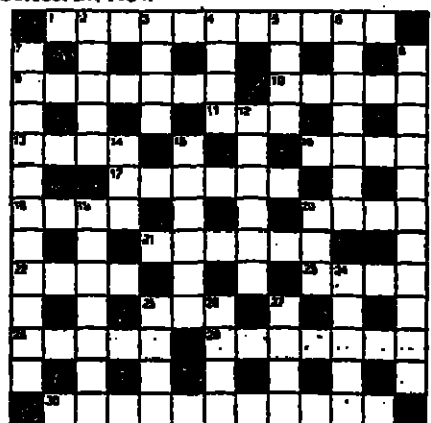
Sotheby's response is to have the collection of Mr. Martin Newstead for sale from Switzerland. At £2, he has decided that he would rather sell his collection, mainly formed in the



Noteworthy netsuke: Some of the items on sale at Sotheby's 1984. The netsuke range from the eighteenth century to the 1970s. There are three pieces by Michael Webb, whose work appears at auction for the first time—his work is also on show at Eskenazi.

Two schools are especially well represented, the eighteenth-century Kyoto animal carvers, such as Tomotada and Masano, the most popular and expensive style of netsuke, and the figure carvers of the nineteenth-century Edo school including actors, dancers and drunken samurai.

Geraldine Norman
The London International Netsuke Convention is at the Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-499 6321) from tomorrow until Oct 27. Participants can register at the hotel from today, fees are £110 for all the events, or £200 per day. A full programme including details of lectures, workshops, exhibitions and auctions is available from the convention registration desk. Sotheby's, 35 New Bond Street, London W1 (493 0080), Viewing Mon, Tues 9am-4.30pm. Sale Wed 6.30pm. Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (839 9060), Viewing tomorrow 2.30-5pm. Mon, Tues and Wed 9am-5pm. Thurs 9am-4pm. Sales Thurs 5.30pm and 8.15pm.



SOLUTION TO No 475
ACROSS: 1 Bertha 5 Lure 8 N/A 9 Whiskey 10 Alchemy 11 Sire 12 Omdurman 14 Willy 17 Inside 19 Mistrust 22 Cove 24 Favour 25 Thrift 26 Lei 27 Celery 28 Aegian
DOWN: 2 Ephah 3 Tympani 4 Anybody 5 Strand 6 Tower 7 Reynard 13 Urn 15 Imitate 16 Fur 17 Inertia 18 Sacking 20 Elope 21 Early 23 Vista
Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

The winners of prize concise No 470 are: N. van Twick, Tidington Corner, Shipston-on-Stroud, Warwickshire, and Miss B. H. Rundle, 219 Marlborough Road, New, Surrey.

SOLUTION TO No 470 (last Saturday's prize concise):
ACROSS: 1 Ocean's razor 9 Iguanas 10 Erase 11 Sam 13 Elba 16 Biter 17 Nought
DOWN: 2 Recto 3 Re-erase 20 Kean cent 21 Down 22 Crumb 23 Aunt 24 Suse 25 Ahem 6 Opaline 7 Fidel Castro 8 Fear of death 12 Ashram 14 Any 15 Duenna 19 Tranche 20 Ken 24 Arabs 25 Morn 26 Broo 27 Feet

Name _____ Address _____



When parents are beyond the cringe

It was one of those PTAs which make you realize that the old order has changed little. The headmaster made a rousing speech; the worthy heads of department exhorted parents and children to collaborate in making the most of their opportunities; the head boy told the new parents what a great place the school was and the governors backed him up; then the headmaster appealed for money—outright donations would do nicely, or perhaps a covenant.

I was at the meeting with a friend whose son was about to join the establishment. We sat in the front row feeling like a couple of schoolgirls taken back in time to shoe-shuffling, yawn-stifling boredom and stare-at-the-ceiling embarrassment. I had reverted totally and was dreaming (as I used to) of levitating and hanging suspended somewhere above the headmaster's balding pate.

A swish and a rustle and a squeaking chair somewhere behind us brought us back to the present. All heads swivelled to see a statuesque lady, deep of cleavage and scarlet of lip, rise somewhat unsteadily to her feet—glass in one hand, two inches of cigarette ash in the other.

"A covenant?" she said, in tones reminiscent of Edith Evans in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. "May I remind the headmaster that the fees for this place of learning are already so high that we shall all soon be reduced to eating cake!" After which extraordinary statement she sat down amid a few suppressed giggles in an otherwise stunned silence.

The headmaster took the blow on the chin like a gentleman and said: "Quite so, a good point, yet nevertheless—" and one of the governors, in a voice just audible to those in the front row, whispered to another: "I wonder which unfortunate child has her for a mother?"

I thought she was rather splendid. But even I could see that it would take a pretty stoical son not to be embarrassed by a mother who was clearly in the habit of making a dramatic exhibition of herself. Because the one thing that almost all children old enough to notice have, is to have a parent stand out in a crowd—unless of course they are silhouetted for acceptable reasons, such as being a country cricketer or possessing a face and figure capable of launching a fleet.

Learning to be embarrassed by parents usually starts at school, for it isn't until you've seen everyone else's mother and father that you begin to look at yours with a critical eye. Who cared if mummy was very fat and daddy had an enormous Adam's apple and a funny walk when there was no one around to ridicule them but you—and you wouldn't have dreamed of doing so. But once at school, the

need to be "normal", just like all your peers, becomes of paramount importance.

In most British preparatory and public schools, where ritual behaviour and customs are long-established, boys from so-called plebeian backgrounds, for example, may have a pretty rough ride, as may the sons of parvenus, though extreme wealth stills many spiteful tongues. Eccentricity is tolerated of course—and the classier the school, the less likely it is that eyebrows will be raised over impecuniosity—shabby clothes and cars and less than bulging tuck boxes. But certain stigmas remain.

It doesn't matter if Smith minor's parents live in an old country house riddled with dry rot and subsist on lentil soup in order to pay the school fees; but it matters awfully when Jones's mother turns up at speech day wearing quite the wrong clothes or doesn't know how to talk to the teachers or eat her cross

sandwiches (remember William Trevor's "Mrs Silly"?)

And it can be a nightmare for a prep school boarder if there is no father to dash about in his whites on sports day—or worse, to have one who doesn't even now how to play cricket.

In state schools the embarrassment factor may be harder to pinpoint—but it's there just the same. Any parent seen by the child's friends as being out of the accepted order of parents—whatever that may be—is likely to be a target. Having a father who speaks with a "posh" accent in an area where everyone else speaks with a strong regional one, may make you ostracized, as can being the child of "old" parents—or having a mother who is publicly over-protective or—possibly worst of all—one who never appears at school at all.

Of course, as a parent I have embarrassed my son (I think only occasionally). There was the occasion when he cringed as

I—in the absence of the familiar Lollipop lady—held up a stream of early morning traffic for a full minute to allow all the chickens to cross the road.

At supper with friends, a few days after the PTA meeting, we reminisced about our own embarrassing parents. One told of how the sweat used to break out on her virginal brow every time her father—a brilliant cellist—arrived to pick her up from school—in a hearse (which is, of course, a most suitable vehicle for carrying large stringed instruments). Another remembered her best friend's father—a retired major turned publican—who used to pinch every young girl's bottom before telling them that one day they'd make some young fella a happy man.

Another's father had caused his son to turn a deep crimson as he gave the latter's headmaster the full benefit of his untutored opinion and said "Is that a real Nora Flight on the wall or not?"

And father, where are you now, who used to cause me to pretend I was not your daughter as you proffered brown shrimps from paper bags, or Callard and Bowser toffee to 7 times reading commuters on the 8.13am to Victoria? Or bribed the train driver slow down at our station, an unscheduled stop? I would trade every successful encounter with a teacher, every self-congratulatory smile at having acquainted myself well in front of my son's friends, to have you embarrass and enchant me and my giggling companions again.

Only when we are older, having shed the callow values of youth, do those of us who had eccentric parents realize just how lucky we were not to be the children of Mr and Mrs Average, whose behaviour, though admirable at the time, remains unmemorable.

Judy Froshaug

Outings

THE DAVID WOOD MAGIC AND MUSIC SHOW: Playway and Jackanory television personality in his own show for children—a combination of music, magic and songs with lots of audience participation. The ticket is Peter Portner, also from Playway: the performance lasts 1½ hours—good timing for young audiences. Arts Theatre, Cambridge (0223 35200). Today, 11am and 1.30pm. All seats £2.

JACOTTO PUPPETS & CHARLOTTE'S WEB: Double bill at the Barbican—puppets and full feature film. Jacotto's 'Starship Exodus' is, as you might imagine, a space adventure in which the puppets change colour, shape and size. The film needs little introduction to young audiences, being the now famous tale of how a spider saves a pig from becoming a packet of bacon. Entire programme lasts 2 hours 26 minutes. Children's Cinema Club, Cinema 1, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (628 8795). Today, 11am and 2.30pm. Day members only 50c, child member £1, adult if accompanied by child £1.50.

ARTHUR DAVIDSON FAMILY CONCERT: First of the autumn series of concerts designed with family audiences in mind. Davidson conducts the London Symphony Orchestra in a programme of music by Humperdinck, Stravinsky, Debussy, Mussorgsky, Ravel, Haydn and Tchaikovsky. Fairfield Concert Hall, Croydon, Surrey (888 9291). Today, 11am. Tickets from £1.65 to £2.40.

WOODWORKER SHOW: Many individual craftsmen and colleges demonstrating a variety of techniques, from traditional chair making to relief carving, 115 trade stands with every kind of tool, wood finishes, and 200 of the best entries for the annual Woodworker Show Awards. Alexandra Pavilion, London N22. Today, 10am-6pm; tomorrow, 10am-5pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.75.

CHESS

Analytical codes of conduct



Old master Mikhail Botvinnik in action against England juniors

Had I thought that it might increase in the popularity of the game lies in the fact that one can make a living from it.

This also applies to Russia. Hungary and most of Eastern Europe, where, despite a rather elaborate pretence of being an amateur the usual practice is to

turn professional once the master is strong enough. This may not be true of Mikhail Botvinnik, who seems to have been a genuine electro-engineer, albeit one with a suspiciously generous amount of leisure to play successfully in great tournaments and matches. Examples are to be found in a very attractive volume of Botvinnik's games, *Half Century of Chess* (Penguin Press, £12.50 hard cover, £7.95 paperback).

From this book I give a fine game in which he outbounces Paul Keres. No mean feat, but it was played in a tournament where Botvinnik reached the height of his powers—the match-tournament for the title of Absolute USSR champion in Leningrad in 1941.

White, P. Keres. Black, M. Botvinnik. Q. Nimzoindian Defence.

1 P-Q4 N-K3 2 P-Q4 P-K3 3 N-K3 P-N3 4 Q-K2 P-Q4

Botvinnik explains that both players had published an analysis of this line shortly before the game was played and hence they were indulging in an analytic battle as well as one over the board.

5 P-K3 P-K3 6 P-K3 P-K3 7 P-K3 P-K3 8 P-K3 P-K3 9 P-K3 P-K3 10 P-K3 P-K3 11 P-K3 P-K3 12 P-K3 P-K3 13 P-K3 P-K3

Botvinnik criticizes this move and says better was 13 P-B3 Q-N3 14 P-K4 P-P15 K-N1.

14 P-K4 P-P15 K-N1. 15 P-K4 P-P15 K-N1. 16 Q-RP P-N5 17 B-N5 B-Q2 and Black wins material.

A beautiful tactical stroke by Botvinnik that forces the win in a few moves.

White resigns as the Queen's move wins the diagonal when Black can give a fatal double check.

Harry Golombek

AT HOME

Formats in photography

Quality control in a world where big is beautiful

Small may be beautiful for some; in photography big is better. The bigger the negative size of a film frame the sharper any enlargement will be.

The dimensions of the negative are called its "format" and this term also applies to the camera equipment. Because of their ease of use and relatively low cost, 35mm format cameras have gained popularity, but while finely detailed shots can be obtained with slow 35mm films, such as Kodak technical pan 2415, their range is limited.

Photographers looking for higher quality should consider using a larger format.

For finer quality pictures David Bailey used a 5 x 4in format for his collection of scenes around North-west London. Still larger format cameras into the realm of "action photography equipment".

The "Big Five" names are Hasselblad, Bronica, Mamiya, Roliflex and Pentax. Earlier this year the company distributing Mamiya—J. Osawa—collapsed, but the range is now distributed by Johnsons of Hendon.

In medium format, cameras divide into twin lens and single lens reflex types. By far the majority are of the single lens variety, twin lens reflex models being represented by the Yashica 124G, Mamiya C330F and the Lubitel 66.

Not nearly as quick as four frame per second 35mm motordrives, they offer on average three frames every two seconds. Nevertheless, this still promotes some medium format cameras into the realm of "action photography equipment".

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Not as versatile in many respects as single lens, they are substantially cheaper, the Soviet-made Lubitel costing only £15, the Mamiya models £190 and £200 respectively, and the Yashica £125.

In one respect two lenses are better than one: the top lens in these cameras provides a constant image in the viewfinder, which is unaffected by the shutter, as it is the bottom lens which takes the picture. This means that fleeting facial

expressions can be monitored—the reason you find many a wedding photographer huddled over these cameras.

Real versatility comes with the single lens package, chiefly with the ability to fit interchangeable film magazines (and choice of format) including a polaroid back, and the possibility of flash synchronization at all shutter speeds with leaf and inter-lens shutter models.

Versatility costs: Hasselblad and Roliflex models start around the £1,000 mark; Bronica prices range between £400 and £900; most Mamiya cameras are under £600 with three in the £300 bracket. The Pentax 6 by 7 cm costs around £500, and their newcomer to the market, the Pentax 645, is as yet unpriced. Second-hand prices are a little more bearable.

Taking size 120 or 220 roll film, which allows only 12 or 24 exposures respectively (in 6 by 6 format) it is possible to change colour for black and white in mid roll (or vice-versa) and speed up the reloading process by simply changing film magazines (exceptions here are Pentax 6 by 7, Pentax 645 and Roliflex SLX).

It is the polaroid back which really makes the qualitative difference, as it allows test exposures to be made in tricky lighting to assess the result instantly before committing it to more permanent film.

A division exists in SLR medium format cameras between those with focal plane shutters and more with leaf shutters. Focal plane versions have a higher top shutter speed of 1/500th of a second, but suffer the limitation of flash synchronization at 1/50th of a second.

True control over lighting with fill-in flash to counteract harsh shadows in bright sunlight, or with back-lit subjects, can be had with leaf shutter or inter-lens shutter equipment as electronic flash will synchronize at any speed. Despite the fact that their top shutter speed is less (around 1/50th of a second) these are the cameras to consider for a leap in quality and control from the world of 35mm.

SLR's: Hasselblad 500C/L, 500LX, 500SWC/1, Bronica SQA/SQAN, Bronica GS-1, Bronica ETES, Roliflex SLX, and Roliflex 6006, Mamiya C330/220F and Mamiya RB67.

Finally, for the very rich, Hasselblad have announced a new model. Called the 2000FCW it incorporates both a leaf shutter and a focal plane shutter giving the best of both worlds—a 1/50th of a second shutter speed with the focal plane shutter (flash sync at 1/50th) and flash synchronization up to 1/50th of a second using the leaf shutter system.

Roy Cuckow

BRIDGE

A battle with the budget

The Lederer Memorial Tournament, which took place last month at the Young Chelsea Club, is arguably the prestige tournament in the bridge calendar. The plinth of the cup, which bears the names of previous winners, is almost a complete record of all the great players who have graced the game since the war. The tournament is an invitation event for teams of four, sponsored and organized with exemplary efficiency by the London County Contract Bridge Association.

Unhappily, I learn that the financial strain that sponsoring this event imposes has become too great for the association. It would be very sad if one of the very few opportunities that the experts have to do battle with their peers should be lost, or drastically reshaped.

This year's field contained the usual high proportion of champions past and present, including the Gibbes Gin Ladies' World Champions, and Irving Rose and Robert Sheehan, both members of the team which will represent Britain in the open series in the World Olympiad in Seattle.

This hand emphasizes the need for precise defence. Game all. Dealer South.

♠	J108563				
♥	754				
♦	A	K872	Q10632	75	
♣					
W	N	E	S		
10	20	30	40		
No	No	No	No		
Opening lead 4C					

North's first bid is as good as his second is bad. The effect of the "double criss" is to punish South for competing over three clubs.

After winning the first trick, on which East discarded the 4C, West continued with the 4S. A thoughtless player would bash out the AK of diamonds. South would ruff, cash the 4A and score a further eight tricks by making his trumps separately.

A more studious performer, foreseeing the impending cross ruff, might switch to a trump at trick three. Declarer can counter that defence by winning in dummy and playing the 4J, discarding his diamond. With the spade established, the defence is powerless. The only defence is to cash exactly one diamond, and then switch to a trump.

With one session to play, "England" (A. Forrester, S. Lodge, G. Kirby and J. Armstrong) had established a comfortable lead over "London" (C. Dixon, V. Silverstone, R. Sheehan and I. Rose), and the Ladies World Champions. One of the talking points was the experimental limited pass system which Forrester and Lodge were playing. The president of the London association, Terence Reese, suggested that such systems should be banned. But unless the ban were to be observed by the rest of the bridge world, it would only serve to handicap British international representatives, and at this level experienced players should not expect to be mollycoddled.

Whatever controversial advantage "England" derived from the Forrester-Lodge system, there can be no argument about John Armstrong's skilful play of this next hand. Love all. Dealer South.

♠	1085				
♥	KJ43				
♦	A875				
♣	A	432	10	QJ63	
W	N	E	S		
10	20	30	40		
No	No	No	No		
Opening lead 4C					

Superficially the fate of his four heart contract seems to hang on the hearts. If they break 2-2, or 3-1, it is singleton, well and good. Otherwise declarer seems doomed to lose a spade, a trump and two clubs. Armstrong discovered an extra chance. After winning the spade lead he crossed to dummy with the 7K. Then he successfully finessed the 4J.

If this had lost, provided the trumps were 2-2, he would merely have exchanged a diamond loser for a spade loser. He cashed the 4A, and continued with a low heart, towards dummy. This might have cost an insignificant overtrick, but as the cards lay it was the only way of creating an immediate entry to dispose of his losing spade on the 4K, while retaining a trump to ruff his third club.

The final result was a convincing victory for England with 320 VPs, chased home at a respectful distance by London, 290 VPs, and The Ladies World Champions, 238 VPs. It is a tribute to the quality of the event that a team containing two former world champions and a former European champion should have to be content with the wooden spoon.

Jeremy Flint

Video cassettes and books on tape

Sports special: Nick Brett sits back and recalls the golden era of rugby in Wales while Alan Franks takes a few lessons in squash

Welsh secret of success — try, try and try again

Bread of heaven chants the crowd, of course, at the start of *The Crowning Years: Welsh Rugby 1969-79*. Bread? This is pure, unadulterated holy wafer.

Indeed, the BBC has left nothing out in its telling of the "second golden era" of Welsh rugby, the 11 seasons in which Wales won nine championships, six Triple Crowns and three Grand Slams (to the game's classicists, the first golden era was 1900-1911 when Wales played 43 matches and lost just five). All 105 tries and an assortment of drop goals, conversions and penalty kicks are there to be praised along with the occasional score by the opposition.

Now I like my rugby, Welsh style, like the best of boys, but I must confess that 766 points in 115 minutes found me flagging. One magnificent Gerald Davies try is much like another magnificent Gerald Davies try — magnificent. You've seen one Barry John drop goal? ... I've seen them all. At the risk of sounding churlish, I craved some analysis and anecdote.

For example, there is a story told of Keith Jarrett, the lovely boy, on his debut, against England at Cardiff Arms Park in 1967. You will recall that he scored 19 points, still a record for a Welshman in an international.

Legend has it that Jarrett missed the last bus home to Newport. The inspector at the depot, lost for words, dispatched a minion to fetch another bus. When he returned with a single-decker, the inspector, now composed and in his right mind, declared: "Don't be daft, Dai, what if he smokes?"

You won't find that story in *The Crowning Years*, nor will

The Crowning Years: Welsh Rugby 1969-79 (115 mins); *Ireland's Triple Crown 1982* (95 mins); *Scotland's Grand Slam 1984* (90 mins); All BBC Video, £24.95 each

you find much of Jarrett: his premature departure to rugby league at the end of the 1969 season is never mentioned. Similarly, in the BBC's chronological, try-by-try approach, no mention is made of Barry John's retirement: suddenly it's 1973 and you notice that it's Bennett not John in the No 10 shirt.

It is extraordinary that from a country renowned for good talkers there is so little talk. There is only the briefest of introductions by the Welsh success: changes in the rules over kicking for touch, the introduction of a squad system with national coaching, and, most importantly, the emergence at the same time of nine or 10 players with rare gifts.

In fact, after watching the 105 tries I would have added another: continuity. This was not one great Welsh team, but two or even three. Only the incomparable J. P. R. Williams completed in all 11 of the crowning years. Furthermore, my final impression was not so much of those nine or ten rare and gifted players — brilliant though they were — as of the nine, ten or more others that I had forgotten: men like Maurice Richards, Arthur Lewis, Ray Gravell and Dai Morris.

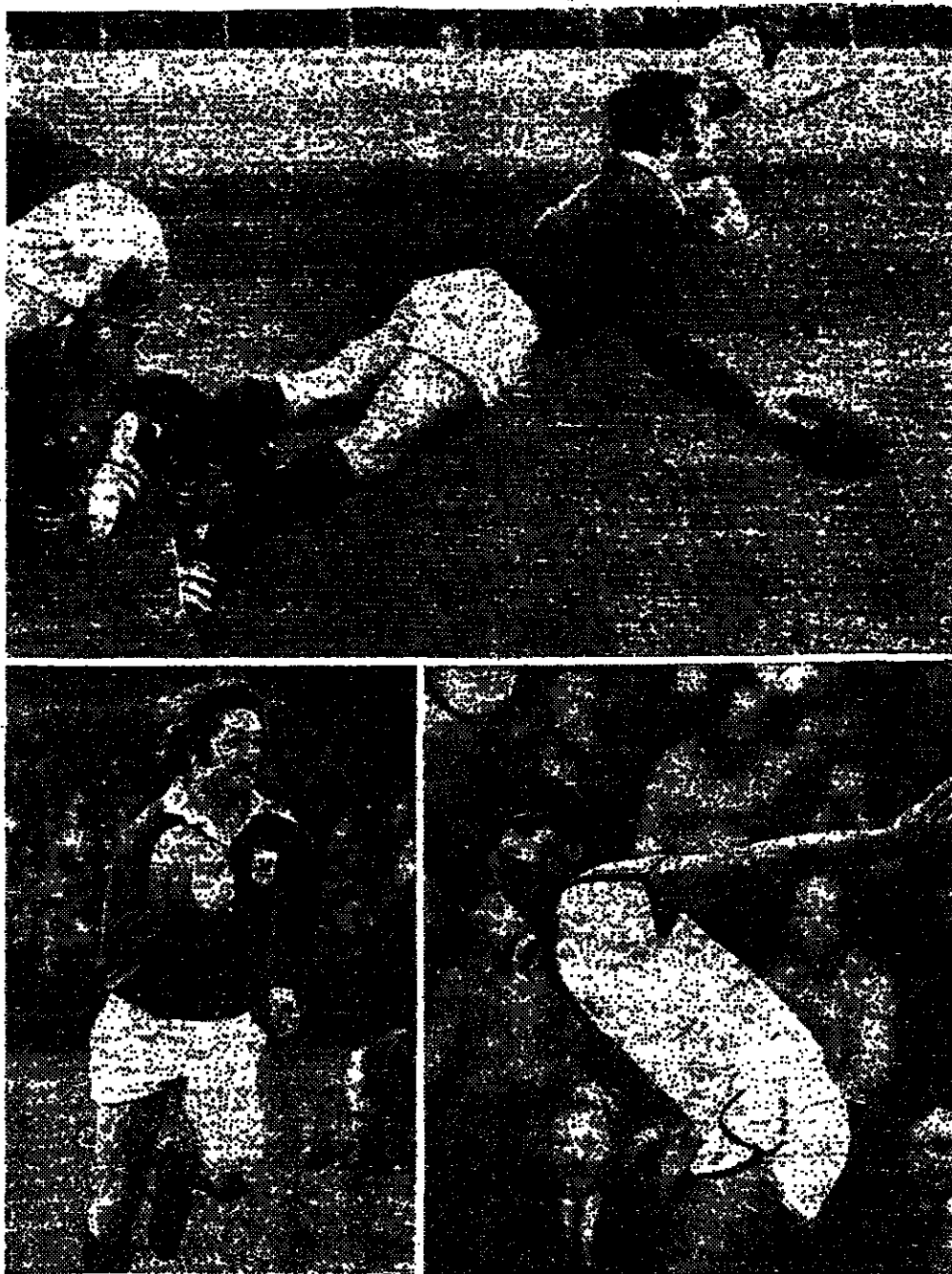
But the blow-by-blow approach does have one advantage. As one try tumbles into another certain names occur over and over again, in certain combinations, like strong magic or a religious chant. It suddenly

becomes clear that the secret of 11 years at the top was the ability of the five in the middle to spoil and create. In the early years the spell is Edwards, John, Taylor, Mervyn Davies and Morris; by the later 1970s the chant has become Edwards, Bennett, Quinell, Squire and Cnber.

And the best moment? Edwards's 60-yard dash against Scotland in 1972, ending face-down in the mud in the corner, is one. John Taylor's huge conversion at Murrayfield in 1971 to give Wales a one-point victory in the dying seconds is another. If only for the crack it brings to Bill McLaren's voice. But the sweetest is Barry John's try against England at Cardiff in the 30-9 victory which clinched the 1969 championship and Triple Crown: he danced past Pullin, Rogers and Rollett like a barefoot ballerina in a patch of stinging nettles. It had to be a good try to eclipse the four by Maurice Richards in the same match.

While Scotland cannot match Wales's tries and triumphs, they can offer a story with a tremendous ending in *Scotland's Grand Slam 1984*. Here, the chronological approach is perfect as match by match Scotland move towards the epic encounter with France in the season's climax at Murrayfield; a Grand Slam is at stake for both sides. In Scotland's case their first since 1925. Great stuff, with France emerging as marvellously bad losers.

Considerably less inspiring is *Ireland's Triple Crown 1982*. This amounts to little more than a tribute to Ollie Campbell's feet, which kicked all 21 points in Ireland's thrashing of Scotland for the crown. Tactically hitting stuff.



Action replay: Welsh captain Gareth Edwards (top), Gerald Davies and Jahangir Khan

Beginners rally to Jahangir's flag

How to improve your squash (three tapes — elementary, intermediate, advanced, 60 mins each). Atlantis Video Productions, £19.95 each

The squash boom has not been matched by a growth in television coverage, and the reasons, alas, are all too clear. This most accessible, if merciless, form of participation games, is broadcasting bane. The ball may be jet black against snow white, but it is so small, and it moves at such a rate when thwacked by the likes of world champion Jahangir Khan that there is little lure for the armchair spectator.

Atlantis Video Productions are up against the same obstacles with their series of three one-hour coaching tapes. Once they shift from the "skill" rudiments of grip and stance into the animated skills of smash and boast, start ballet for two opposing soloists. He is compelled to watch the players for a clue as to the whereabouts of the thing they are hitting, but because of the dinks, the angles and the astonishing sleight of wrist found at this level, the clues tend to mislead the viewer quite as much as the opponent.

I am not convinced that the first video, labelled "elementary", will do much for the beginner except fill him with a sense of the unattainable, for the gulf between club and professional squash is a yawning one. They are quite simply, two different games, and there is a paradoxical way in which the humbler, and more fallible version is the more watchable.

None the less, there is much to admire here for the already competent amateur, by the time we reach the "intermediate" tape, there is sound advice from Jahangir's coach Rahmat Khan on the essential tactics of rallying; how to assess your

options of return early in the trajectory and then conceal your intentions until the last instant before the stroke; how to establish a pattern in the course of a rally; how to set up to do the unexpected. Hard to do unless you possess the awesome accuracy and fitness of world class players.

Perhaps Atlantis would have been well advised to make extended use of a beginner or a modest clubman with whom we could identify, and demonstrate how his game is brought along by coaching. As it is, we just have to take Rahmat Khan's word for it. Certainly, it is a pretty impressive word, as his record confirms, but if he was lumbered with Joe Bloggs, currently struggling on the middle rungs of his club ladder, rather than the taut and tireless (and 20-year-old) Jahangir, he might have to work harder for our convictions.

These Khans are nothing if not committed, and the enthusiasm is catching. "Stay in the game. Never give up. Keep working, brick by brick, until you have finished the building of your dreams." Oh yes, and the best advice of all for the club windmill (every club has one): "Always follow your stroke through in the direction of your target." By which they mean the ball and not the man. "Otherwise you might find your opponent's teeth marks on your racket." Nasty.

The series will be available at the end of this month to coincide with the World Squash Championships. Aficionados may be interested by recordings of five of Jahangir's best matches, also produced by Atlantis at similar prices. As television hardly compares with the Botham Tests, but it's squash at its very finest.

Wholesome sound of a religious revival

New releases

The most surprising video release of the month is the BBC's *Songs of Praise*. Can a market dominated by sex and horror really find a place for a tape of hymns? Apparently it can: The Beeb is not one to miss a commercial trick these days and the cassette, it maintains, is in direct response to public demand.

So here we have a selection of favourite hymns culled from the television programme, now in its twenty-second year. The choice was guided by the many thousands of requests received from viewers and includes hymns from all the main Christian festivals sung in churches, cathedrals and the open air.

Among the locations are a scout camp in Scotland where a rendition of *Amazing Grace* celebrates the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Boy Scout movement; and Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands echoing to the strains of *Eternal Father Strong to Save*, sung on board the British ship, *Rangaita*. The tape runs for an hour and sells at £19.99.

The other television offerings include samples of the comedy shows, *Last of the Summer*

Joy of learning: Julie Walters in *Educating Rita*

Wine and Three of a Kind. The *Summer Wine* material comes from the early years of the series, when the late Michael Bates was the foil for Bill Owen's Compo and Peter Sallis as Clegg. *Three of a Kind* is of more recent vintage, a volley of gags from Lenny Henry, Tracey Ullman and David Copperfield.

Top marks to CIC Video for augmenting its Golden Screen series of classic movies with three of the very best: Howard Hawks's trail-blazing gangster film, *Scarface*; the Marx Brothers in *Animal Crackers*; and Billy Wilder's acerbic look at Hollywood legend, *Sunset Boulevard*. In the same series, if

not quite the same league, is another Wilder film, *Salut 17*. Coming much nearer the present day, Rank Video is putting out *Educating Rita*, Willy Russell's stage hit, deftly filmed by the veteran Lewis Gilbert and joyously played by Michael Caine and Julie Walters as teacher and pupil.

Paris, Texas, Wim Wenders's bitter-sweet love story with Nastassia Kinski, comes out of Palace Video after winning first prize at the Cannes Festival, while a tear-jerker of a more obvious kind, *Terms of Endearment*, is on CIC, together with Francis Ford Coppola's bizarre *Rumble Fish* and the Steven Spielberg road movie, *Sugarland Express*.

Warner Home Video's new titles include *Greystoke*, Hugh Hudson's first film since *Chariots of Fire*, and Woody Allen's edgy comedy, *Zelig*. Thorn EMI has *The Honorary Consul*, directed by John (The Long Good Friday) Mackenzie from the novel by Graham Greene. Films from the less immediate past are *Gunfight at the OK Corral* (CIC), with Burt Lancaster as Wyatt Earp, and *The Comedy of Terrors* (Rank), horror hokum with the splendid cast of Vincent Price, Peter Lorre, Boris Karloff and Basil Rathbone.

For the family market, Walt Disney is issuing the 1951 version of *Alice in Wonderland* — the first of its animated features to appear on video — and the 1983 wildlife adventure set in the Canadian Arctic, *Never Cry Wolf*. Another animated production is *The Wind in the Willows*, adapted by Rosemary Anne Sisson, while younger children can enjoy a 60-minute selection from the pre-school learning programme, *Rainbow*; both tapes come from Thames Video.

There is contrasting news of the two disc systems. The CED VideoDisc, a joint venture by RCA and Hitachi, will no longer be made for the British market after the end of the year. Sales have simply been too low to make the venture pay. Owners of machines will be able to go on buying software — with a choice of 250 titles — until stocks are exhausted.

The trouble with disc systems is that they have no recording facility. Philips's LaserVision has not been a huge success, either, but the company is keeping faith with it by announcing the release of 30 operas and ballets from the world's leading houses.

Peter Waymark



Dickens (top) and Conan Doyle

Presenting a dramatic past

Spoken Word

Two important new ventures have come to my notice this month. The first, "Plays on Tape", a new initiative by BBC Enterprises, is particularly welcome. The recordings are the first six in a series of single-cassette productions, each about 90 minutes long. Of BBC radio plays which listeners have wanted to be able to buy.

The series goes some towards filling a noticeable gap, because drama, which used to be the mainstay of Spoken Word recording, now seems to be generally ignored, presumably for reasons of economy.

Of the three "Plays on Tape" I have heard, I most enjoyed *A Study in Scarlet*, from Conan Doyle's first work of fiction, published in 1887, in which an already fully realized Sherlock Holmes meets Dr Watson, fresh from the Afghan wars, and looking for someone to share lodgings with.

This attractive dramatization by Michael Hardwick, produced by Roger Pine, stars Robert Powell as a young, humorous and understandingly smug Holmes and Dinsdale Lunden as Dr Watson, with full supporting cast and first-rate sound effects.

The second cassette consists

A Study in Scarlet by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, dramatized by Michael Hardwick, with Robert Powell and Dinsdale Lunden (BBC Plays on Tape, 1 cassette, ZCF 501, £5.25)

Under the Lighthouse Tree and *The Disagreeable Oyster* by Giles Cooper, with Cyril Shaps, Kathleen Helme, William Edde, John Graham (BBC Plays on Tape, 1 cassette, ZCF 507, £5.25)

Night of the Wolf by Victor Pemberton, with Vincent Price and Coral Browne (BBC Plays on Tape, ZCF 505, £5.25)

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens, read by Martin Jarvis (Cover to Cover Cassettes, £31.05)

Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë, read by Patricia Routledge (Cover to Cover Cassettes, £24.15)

of two shorter plays, *Under the Lighthouse Tree*, with Cyril Shaps (in his bath), and *The Disagreeable Oyster*. Both concern the near-escape of "little" men from their unsatisfying backgrounds (one of them almost drowning not in the bathwater but in the past and the might-have-been), and their grateful return to normality. Both are surrealistic, farcical and oddly poetical, the idiosyncratic products of the distinguished radio playwright, Giles Cooper.

The Night of the Wolf is for the listener who revels in Gothic horrors, preferably set in

misty fen-country at the end of the last century, with the blood-curdling howls of dog and werewolf mingling in the night, the clang of spade on coffin-lead and the strangled cries of victims as the wolfman chomps them up, snuffling horribly.

The second new series comes from Cover to Cover Cassettes, who specialize in recording the great classic novels of the nineteenth century and some outstanding children's stories. *Great Expectations*, in a brilliant and richly satisfying performance by Martin Jarvis, occupies 13 cassettes, lasts for 17½ hours and is a joy to listen to — headlong action from the start and a teeming world of characters of every description.

Published only 14 years earlier, Emily Brontë's incomparable *Wuthering Heights* seems to emanate from a different universe. Here it is beautifully read (10 cassettes, 14½ hours) by Patricia Routledge, who is well able to encompass the black passions, the tragedy and the lyricism of this haunting story.

The tapes are available by mail order only, from Cover to Cover Cassettes, Freeport, Marlborough, Wiltshire (067 286 495).

Mary Postgate

GALLERIES

Competitive surge from the Midlands

Yesterday Lord Gowrie made eight Midland artists happy by passing to each of them a sealed brown envelope containing a cheque. He was attending the prize-winning ceremony for Midland View 3, a major exhibition of contemporary visual art by artists living and working in the Midlands: 600 entries culled down to 75, with three prizes of £1,000 and five of £400. It opens at Nottingham today.

This is the age of the competition and the visual arts are no exception. The Tolly Cobbold and TWSA competitions are others in a long list. As art is a matter of personal taste, however, you might have thought it would not lend itself to committee judgment. In the case of Midland View in particular, the judges — Alister Warman, director of the Serpentine Gallery, Shelagh Cluett, sculptress and lecturer, and Stuart Morgan, writer and critic — would not be expected to see eye to eye.

"We do have very different tastes", says Alister Warman, a selector here for the first time, "but as judges we agreed fairly quickly on 150-160 works, and eventually on 40 per cent of the final exhibition."

This is the third biennial Midland View event, scheduled to tour Wolverhampton, Mansfield, Stoke on Trent, Birmingham and Derby until August next year. It will not avoid London, determination to avoid London. "Until now large exhibitions in the area for Midland artists", says Paul Swales, the exhibition organizer.

Although the competition was open to everyone, amateur or professional, the number of

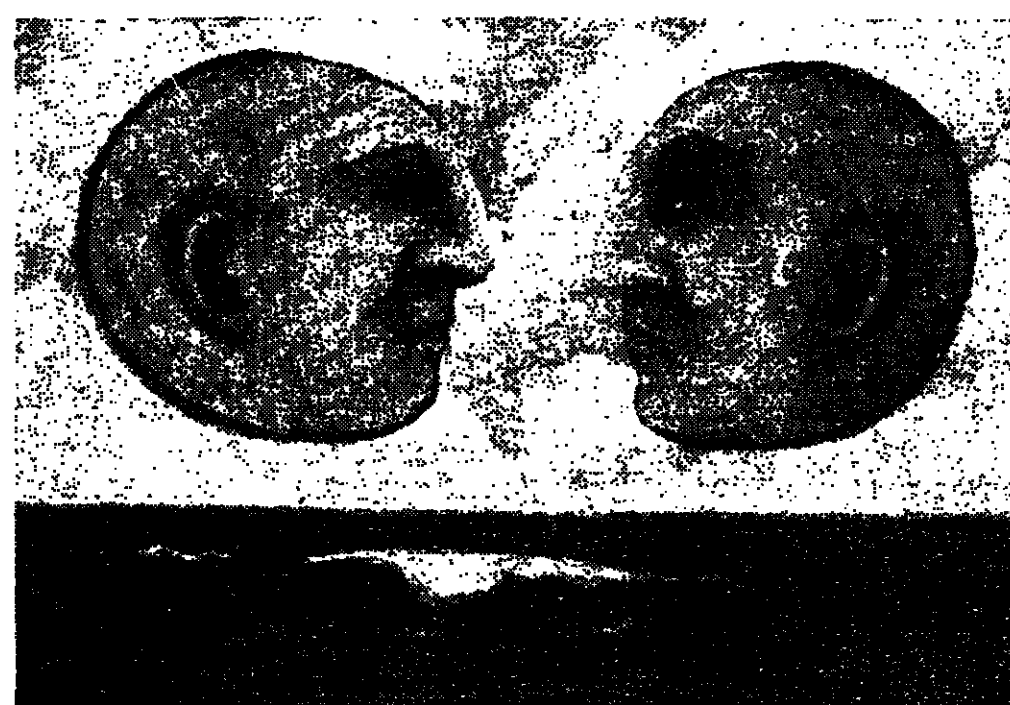
Sunday afternoon painters, women and black entrants was disappointing. Of the exhibited 75, five were amateur, 14 were women and two were black. Paul Swales says: "The selection was anonymous; they just didn't get chosen". There was also very little sculpture, even though 14 pick-up points were arranged, minimizing transport problems for artists.

One success story is that of Karl Tallis, a Shropshire lad who has just left school, and whose inclusion in the show will further his chances of getting into art school. He is establishing quite a habit of winning, having done well in the TSB Christmas competition last year. His Midland View painting is a thickly applied, Caribbean scene. Another young artist whose work stood out was Jane Kelly of Walsall, who made a rubbing of a wedding dress, entering the debate about women and their roles.

On the whole the show seems to have similar quality and scope to work currently produced in London. "If you look back five years, work was constrained by certain orthodoxies. That's been turned over", says Alister Warman. He was, however, surprised to see so few abstract works (none of the prize winning entries are abstract).

One notable trend was the increase in fantasy subjects: there were no less than six baboons.

Sarah Jane Checkland
"Midland View 3" opens today at the Midland Group Arts Centre, Carlton Street, Hockley, Nottingham (0602 582636). Until Nov 17, Tues-Fri 11am-7.30pm, Sat 10am-5.30pm.



Heads you win: La Rencontre Des Etrangers, which earned a £400 prize for David Neville, of Wolverhampton Polytechnic, in Midland View 3. The picture is priced at £200

Selected

NINE PAINTERS
Roger Francis Gallery, 533 King's Road, London SW10 (352 3187). Until Dec 18, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm new gallery, new show. Run by the society's artists. The exhibition is a candidly: "Having no formal education in art, all I have to guide me is my interest". All artists represented have associations with the Royal College, all works are figurative. Includes Picasso-style miniatures by Eva Bosch and surreal landscapes by Robin Mason.

MASTERS OF PRINTMAKING
William Weston Gallery, 7 Royal Arcade, Albemarle Street, London W1 (493 0722). Until Nov 3, Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10.30am-1pm. Annual exhibition of European prints. Includes many fine examples of artists represented in

current exhibitions elsewhere in London, for example Kathie Kollwitz and Edward Munch at the British Museum and Matisse at the Hayward.

GRAHAM CROWLEY AND STEPHEN FARTHING
Edward Tatham Gallery, 13 Old Burlington Street, London W1 (734 0343). Until Nov 3, Mon 2-6pm, Tues-Fri 11am-6pm, Sat 10.30am-1pm. Recent work, as seen through the eyes of two artists/cartoonists/surrealists. Crowley's rooms have fermenting meals being harpooned by flying cutlery. Farthing's have dancing pianos and chairs. Memorable.

GEORGE STUBBS
Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (821 1515). Until Jan 6, Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5.30pm. Definitive exhibition for the great horse painter. Although in those

days everyone knew their place, Stubbs has a skillful way of giving aristocrats, peasants and creatures equality under the sky.

HENRI MATISSE: SCULPTURE AND DRAWINGS
Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (529 3144). Until Jan 6, Mon-Wed 10am-6pm, Thurs-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-6pm. A show that concentrates on all the effort behind the apparently effortless masterpieces.

THE AGE OF VERMEER AND DE HOOCH
Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (734 9052). Until Nov 16, daily 10am-6pm. Ravishing exhibition of seventeenth-century genre painting from collections all over the world, celebrating a time when Dutch art flourished.

Openings

CONTEMPORARY ART SOCIETY MARKET: First ever supermarket for work by living artists. A committed attempt by the Contemporary Art Society to pep up a flagging market. Proceeds go into buying paintings for public collections. High quality paintings, sculpture and prints at amazingly low prices (£40-£500). Five Dials Gallery, 33 Shelton Street, London WC2 (all enquiries to the CAS: 821 5323) Opens Wed. Until Oct 27, Wed-Fri 11am-6pm, Sat 10am-10pm.

BEN URI PICTURE FAIR: Art lotteries are catching on this time to raise funds for the gallery itself. Drawings, paintings and lithographs by such artists as David Bomberg, Alan Davie and John Piper, donated by artists and benefactors. Tickets cost £25 and at 8pm on Oct 28 tickets are drawn from a hat and selections made. Ben Uri Gallery, 21 Dean Street, London W1 (437 2852). Viewing tomorrow. Until Thurs, tomorrow 2-6pm, Mon-Thurs 10am-6pm, Oct 28 2-8pm.

TONY BEVAN, JEFFORD HARRISON, GLENYS JOHNSON, JAN WANDJIA: Four ways of depicting violence and injustice. Jan Wandjia and Glenys Johnson take media images and install them with symbolism (for example Wandjia turns press photos of a moment of victory for Sebastian Coe into a crucified St Sebastian). Tony Bevan depicts individuals isolated from their fellows and Jefford Harrison makes clay models inspired by the sweet shops of London's East End. Bluecoat Gallery, School Lane, Liverpool L1 (051 709 5689). Opens today. Until Nov 17, Tues-Sat 10.30am-5pm.

GRAHAM SUTHERLAND IN PENINSULAR KESHIRE: Scottish Arts Council touring show examining the evolution of two Sutherland paintings inspired by that country, "St Ishmaels", 1976 and "Cathedral", 1975. Corrie Richards Gallery, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park (0792 295491). Opens today. Until Nov 10, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm.

Photography

SECOND IMAGES
Open Eye Gallery, 90-92 Whitelapel, Liverpool (051 709 9489). Until Oct 27, Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm. Interesting portraits of actors and personalities by Michael Birt taken for a number of popular magazines. Many of the photographs were created with available light which gives an amazing subtlety of tone and depth of shadow. Exposures were often a second or more, hence the title of the exhibition.

ROADS ... TO WIGAN PIER
Impressions Gallery, 17 Colliergate, York (0904 54724). Until Dec 1, Tues-Sat 10am-6pm. Social aspects of life in the north of England from early young photographers who take as their starting point Orwell's *The Road to Wigan Pier*: mining communities, canal dwellers, one-parent families are featured among the 100 black-and-white prints.

RPS ANNUAL
Kodak Gallery, High Holborn, London WC1 (01-405 7841). Wed until Dec 6, Mon-Fri 9am-4.45pm. The Royal Photographic Society's 128th annual international exhibition, open to amateur and professional alike, reaches London, the second stop on its national tour.

MANCHESTER FOOTBALL
Manchester Studios, Cavendish House, Cavendish Street, Manchester (061 225 6171). Until Nov 25, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm. Press and studio photographs plus material drawn from the Manchester Studios Archive, documents the growth of football in Manchester from 1880 to 1939.

Michael Young

Johannes Vermeer. Woman holding a Balance (detail). National Gallery of Art, Washington.

THE AGE OF VERMEER & DE HOOCH
Masterpieces of 17th Century Dutch Genre Painting
ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS
PICCADILLY, LONDON, W1
UNTIL 18 NOVEMBER 1984
Made possible through the support of the American Express Company

THE WEEK

Radio

ENGLISH TO THE BACKBONE: A profile of Lord Palmerston, the controversial Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister who was born 200 years ago today. His sturdy defence of British interests abroad, if necessary by sending a gunboat, made him immensely popular at home and feared by foreign diplomats. The programme explores his personality and politics through contemporary diaries, speeches and letters and he is played by Norman Rodway. Radio 4, today, 10.15-11pm.

TRANSATLANTIC QUIZ: Started 40 years ago when the question master was a young Alistair Cooke and those on the receiving end included Beatrix Lillie, Jack Buchanan, Naumt Wayne and David Niven. In the latest series John Julius Norwich and Irene Thomas in London challenge Brendan Gill and Shana Alexander in New York. Radio 4, tomorrow, 4.02-4.30pm.

THE TIN DRUM: Yet another anniversary, this time of Günther Grass's novel, one of the most powerful books to emerge from Europe since the war, which was published in Germany 25 years ago. Philip Grady, reader in German at Birkbeck College, London, considers the book both as a work of literature and as a manifesto for the new Germany; he is joined by Grass himself, Volker Schlöndorff, who directed the film version; and by writers and critics in Britain, Germany and the United States. Radio 4, Mon, 9.30-10.15pm.

THE AMERICAN POPULAR SONG: Weekly series in 16 parts, written and presented by Peter Clayton, which examines American popular music from the nineteenth century to the present day. He spent more than three weeks in America recording interviews and among his subjects are acknowledged "greats", Johnny Mercer and Sammy Kahn, as well as modern singer-songwriters David Gates,

Randy Edelman, Carole King and Janis Ian. Radio 2, Tues, 8-9pm.

PAUL ROBESON: Portrait of the black American singer who had to endure a campaign of hatred and violence from his fellow countrymen when he championed the cause of the Soviet Union during the Cold War. It includes interviews with his son, whom he sent to be educated in Russia, his friends and his fellow entertainers; and there are recordings of the rich Robeson voice. Radio 4, Fri, 4.10-4.40pm.

Sport

INTERNATIONAL SNOOKER: The world's richest snooker tournament, the £225,000 Rothman's Grand Prix, continues at Reading where Tony Knowles is defending his title against the current world champion Steve Davis, as well as other top players including Ray Reardon, Cliff Thorburn and Terry Griffiths. There is television coverage from The Hexagon throughout the week starting today on BBC1 at 12.55pm and BBC2 at 6.30pm.

THE GREAT DECIDER: The organizers of the 1984 world motor racing championship could not have hoped for a better finale, with the title being decided in the last race of the season and just three and a half points separating Niki Lauda from the only man who can catch him, his McLaren team mate, Alain Prost. They do battle tomorrow in the Portuguese Grand Prix which is being contested over 71 laps at Estoril.

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL: The three club competitions reach the second round stage on Wednesday with Liverpool, the European Cup holders, hoping to put recent league form behind them as they take on Benfica of Portugal. The



Gumbast advocate: Profile of Lord Palmerston (see Radio)

other outstanding ties include Tottenham Hotspur against Bruges and Manchester United v Eindhoven, while little Wrexham faces the might of Roma. Commentary on Soccer Special, Radio 4, from 8pm; television highlights in Sportsnight, BBC1, from 10.15pm.

IN THE RING: Pat Cowdell of Wexley, West Midlands, makes his first defence of the European super featherweight title against the former champion, Robert Castanon, of Spain. The venue for the 12-round contest is the Aston Villa Leisure Centre where Cowdell took the title from Jean Marc Richard, the Belgian, in the summer. Live coverage on all TV regions, Wed, from 10.30pm.

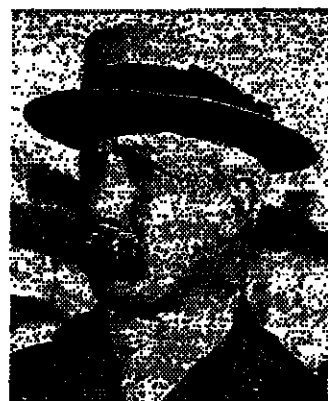
SET AND MATCH: The absence of Martina Navratilova and Chris Lloyd may open the way for a British victory in the Presty Polly women's tennis tournament at Brighton Centre. Going for the £25,000 top prize are Jo Durie, Annabel Croft, Anne Hobbs and the veteran Virginia Wade; the main overseas challenge is likely to come from Pam Shriver, Kathy Jordan and the Hungarian, Andrea Temesvári. BBC2 picks up play at the quarter-final stage on Fri, 3-4pm and 11.15pm-midnight.



Out of tune: Robeson's politics made a victim of him (see Radio)



Honey talks: Bee lovers meet in London (see Other Events)



Arts master: A celebration of Lethaby (see Other Events)

Auctions

WILLS TREASURE HOUSE: The contents of Thornby Hall in Northamptonshire, the rambling seventeenth-century pile where Oliver Cromwell slept the night before the Battle of Naseby, are to be dispersed on behalf of the Wills family, of tobacco fame. It was bought by Arnold S. Wills in 1911 and filled with good, mainly eighteenth-century, furniture including an important pair of rosewood and mahogany commodes attributed to John Lawrence, inlaid with splendid musical trophies. They include the score of a song inscribed "sung by Mr Beard at Ranelagh Gardens by W. K. Tideman" of which Christie's would love to know more. Christie's at Thornby Hall, Northamptonshire (0804 740001). Viewing today 10am-6pm. Sale Mon and Tues 11am and 2pm.

PENNIES FROM FREEMAN: The collection of Victorian bronze coins formed by Michael J. Freeman, to be sold in its entirety, is believed to be the finest and most comprehensive in existence. It includes more patterns and proofs than are held by the Royal Mint or the British Museum. No fewer than 24 of his coins are believed to be

unique and a further 82 are listed as extremely rare. Christie's, 6 King Street, London SW1 (839 9060). Viewing Mon 9am-7pm. Sale Tues at 10am.

Other events

FREEDOM MY LOVE: Paul Eddington, John Duttine, Geraldine James, Tim Pigott-Smith and others in an evening of poetry, letters, mime and music in aid of Amnesty International. St John's Smith Square, London SW1 (222 1061). Tomorrow, 7.05pm.

FROM CANADA TO HIGHLIGHT: Readings in verse and prose to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Taylor Coleridge who lived in the Lake District from 1800 to 1834. Lake District National Park Visitor Centre, Brockhole, near Windermere, Cumbria (09662 2231). Tomorrow at 2pm. Adults £1, children 50p.

ENGLISH PEOPLE: The painter and jazz tenor saxophonist Tim Whitehead leads his band, Borderline, in a musical entertainment with narrative, poetry and paintings based on his observations in and around the River Thames near his home in

Twickenham. A week-long exhibition of his work at the Lyttelton Music Club, Lyttelton Lane, Folkestone, Kent, moves to Stoke-on-Trent, Wolverhampton, Milton Keynes and Lichfield. (Information: 021 236 4379).

REMEMBERING LETHABY: The first comprehensive exhibition devoted to the life and works of William Richard Lethaby is opened by the Duke of Gloucester. Architect, designer, writer and educationalist, Lethaby was the co-founder and first principal of the LCC Central School of Arts and Crafts. Central School of Art and Design, Southampton Row, London WC1 (405 1825). Open Tues, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Adults 50p, students and pensioners 25p. Until Nov 17.

NATIONAL HONEY SHOW: More than 4,000 beekeepers are swarming into London next week for the fifty-third annual show, featuring 100 classes for honey, beeswax and other products of the hive. Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2. Open Thurs 2-8.30pm, Fri 10am-8.30pm, Sat 10am-6pm. Adults 80p, children under 16 20p. (Information: Peter Baker 333 8763).

INTERNATIONAL BIKE SHOW: The 1985 ranges from the leading motorcycle manufacturers have been held back for the show, which is divided into three sections - road rider, racing and off-road. There are special features on motorcycling, BMX and 75 years of competition. Olympia, London W14. Open Fri, until Nov 3. Daily 10am-7pm (10am-6pm on Nov 3). Adults £3, children under 16 £1.50. (Information: 741 2166).

PERFORMING ARTS BOOKFAIR: Antiquarian and second hand books, playbills, prints, posters, film stills, music, autographs, programmes and other ephemera on sale in the stalls foyer, Oliver Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (022 2053). Fri 2-9pm, Oct 27 10am-6pm. Free.

THEATRE

In preview

THE HIRED MAN: Based on Melvyn Frue's novel, this new musical has been generally well received on its provincial outings, and is now for its London debut, directed by David Gilmore and produced by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Astoria, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (734 4287). Previews Fri at 8pm, Oct 22 at 4pm and 8pm. Opens Oct 31 at 7pm.

LAZY DAYS LTD: A new drama with Martin Bailey, Edna Doré, Wilfrid Knightley and Stephen Tiller in a celebration which turns sour. Theatre Royal, Stratford East, Gerry Raffles Square, London E15 (534 0310). Previews Thurs, Oct 27 at 8pm, opens Oct 29 at 7.30pm, then until Nov 24, Mon-Sat at 8pm.

ROUGH CROSSING: Tom Stoppard has freely adapted Ferenc Molnar's *Play at the Castle*, and has the two co-authors and the composer of a new musical comedy on routes with its male and female leads for Broadway, on an ocean liner. Peter Wood directs Michael Kitchen, Robin Bailey, John Standing, Sheila Gish, Andrew C. Wadsworth and Niall Buggy. Lyttelton, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (928 2252). Previews today, Mon-Fri and Oct 27 and 29 at 7.45pm; matinees previews Thurs and Oct 27 at 3pm. Opens Oct 30 at 7pm. In repertory.

Openings

TWO INTO ONE: New comedy by Ray Cooney, who also directs. Donald Sinden, Michael Williams, Barbara Murray, Derek Royle, Linda Hayden, Lionel Jeffries. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (879 5399). Previews today at 5.30pm and 8.30pm, Mon and Tues at 8pm; Opens Wed at 7pm. Until Mar 16, Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5.30pm and 8.30pm; matinees Wed at 3pm.



Deck hands: Tom Stoppard (left) with Sheila Gish and John Standing, two of the stars of Rough Crossing (see In Preview)

Selected

GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS Cottesloe (022 2252). Today at 2.30 and 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm. In repertory. David Mamet's menacing account of the shark-eat-sprat world of American real-estate men has a resonance that spreads wide; a cast including Jack Shepherd in top form do it justice.

THE DEVILS The Pit (028 8795/638 8891). Wed at 7.30pm, Thurs at 2 and 7.30pm. In repertory. Much improved by partial in-house rewriting, John Whiting's drama of demonic hysteria and exorcism in seventeenth-century France comes across powerfully in John Barton's spare, fluent studio production. Peter McNery plays Grandier, the sybaritic priest sent to the stake, and Estelle Kohler chills the blood as the tormented Sister Jeanne.

FORTY YEARS ON Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 (734 1166). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5 and 8.15pm, and a large-scale production. Transferred from Chichester, Alan Bennett's witty and nostalgic pageant of Britain from the 1900s to the 1980s, rich in wickedly funny parodies and presented as a boys' public school play, with a cast of 1984, Paul Eddington makes a dotty yet dignified headmaster.

A LITTLE HOTEL ON THE SIDE Olivier (022 2252). Mon-Wed at 7.15pm, matinee Wed at 2pm. In repertory. Upstairs and (thanks to John Mortimer's translation) surprisingly witty version of the *Ferret* farce better known as *Hot Paradise*, with Grahame Garden as a spry bourgeois adulterer, Deborah Norton as a marital dragon, Benjamin Whitrow as a well-watched stammerer and Michael Bryant's hosteller snooping on all and sundry.

HENRY VIII Barbican (022 8795). Today at 2 and 7.30pm. In repertory. Not for purists or tourists, perhaps, but the RSC's insolently Brechtian production has real flair and gives

an interesting new shape to this usually undramatised play.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE Barbican (022 8795/638 8891). Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory. Adrian Noble's distinguished and spectacular production sets Shakespeare's great problem comedy in the sinister world of an eighteenth-century absolute monarchy.

ON YOUR TOES Palace (437 6834). Mon-Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Thurs and Sat at 2.30pm. In repertory. Galina Panova (with Doreen Wells taking over on Wed evenings and Sat matinees) has the lead in this appealing revival of the 1936 Rodgers and Hart musical, staged 8pm to co-writer and original director, George Abbott, aged 96.

PASSION PLAY Wyndham's (026 3028). Until Nov 24, Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5 and 8.30pm; matinees Wed at 3pm. Witty, sad and delectably intricate, Peter Nichols's award-winning 1961 play about unwilling adultery. Stars Leslie Phillips.

TEA IN A CHINA CUP Riverside Studios, Chiswick Road, London W6 (748 3354). Until Nov 1, Tues-Sun at 8pm. Three generations of women in a Belfast Protestant family: this prize-winning play from Belfast's Lyric Theatre is moving and beautifully acted, and weaves public and private themes together to a haunting conclusion.

VOLPONE The Pit (028 8795/638 8891). Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory. Beautifully measured revival of Jonson's satire on greed and gullibility, with Richard Griffiths and Miles Anderson outsmarting an outrageous funny Gremio Jones and a fine gallery of grotesques.

WEST SIDE STORY Her Majesty's (930 6608). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 4.45 and 8pm; matinees Wed at 2.30pm. Bernstein's classic 1958 musical, scrupulously and energetically revived with Jerome Robbins's original choreography.

SALISBURY: Playhouse, Malthouse Lane (0722 20333). A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens, adapted by David Horlock. Until Nov 10, Tues, Wed and Fri at 7.15pm, Thurs at 8pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm, also on Nov 5 at 7.15pm; matinee Oct 25 at 2.30pm. Horlock directs a full-scale stage version, including the storming of the Bastille by the mob. Terry Dab and Daniel Hill are Lucie Manette and Charles Darnay, Robert Surtees is Sydney Carton.

STRATFORD: Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789 256623). Richard III. Today and Thurs at 1.30pm. In repertory. Anthony Sher, Patricia Routledge, Roger Allam, Brian Blessed, directed by Bill Alexander. Love's Labour's Lost. Today and Thurs at 7.30pm. In repertory. Final new production of the season: Barry Kyle directs. Edward Petherbridge, Joanne Simon, Roger Rees, Kenneth Branagh.

Henry V. Mon-Wed and Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory. Kenneth Branagh, with Cécile Paul, Bernard Horsfall, Sebastian Shaw, directed by Adrian Noble.

The Other Place (0789 256623). Today by Robert Holman. Previews on Tues, Wed, Fri, Oct 27, Oct 30 at 7.30pm. Press Night Oct 31 at 7pm. In repertory. New play centred on a school teacher in the north of England during the 1920s and 1930s: his life, family and friends in a world of fast-changing values. Developed from workshops with the company, for whom it was written: 13 players all with substantial roles. Bill Alexander directs. Roger Allam, Penny Downie, Jim Hooper, Polly James, Donald McGill, George Rastrick, Rowena Roberts, Katharine Rogers, Amanda Root, James Simmons, Simon Templeman, David Whitaker, Jimmy Yull.

The Week compiled by Peter Wyman: Comedy: Anthony Masters; Dance: John Percival

FILMS

Memories refreshed by realism

You need to take a deep breath when surveying the subjects tackled by the novelist, short story writer and film director John Sayles, one of the most likeable young American talents: they include alligators lurking in city sewers, aging leftists and 1960s students, Cuban refugees, lesbian relationships, man-eating fish, black extra-terrestrials in Harlem, and striking coal miners in West Virginia.

Yet it is possible to bring this crazy list to heel. The alligators and fish belong to Sayles's horror scripts for *Alligator* and *Planeta* - films that brought the atrocity with a genre suffering from too much gore and ostentatious special effects.

Once Sayles started to direct his own scripts - in *The Return of the Secaucus Seven* and *Lianna* - he progressed to assorted personal relationships, observed with realistic detail and an acute sense of characters' social contexts. But whatever the topic, whatever the medium, Sayles's tone has been refreshingly quizzical and humane.

Next week see the belated British release of Sayles's third film as writer-director, *Baby It's You*, shot in 1982, and loosely based on the teenage experiences of its co-producer Amy Robinson. A plot outline might provoke yawns, for this is a period high-school drama of two mismatched lovers in the mid-1960s - the middle-class Jill, an aspiring actress, and the working-class Sheik, an aspiring Frank Sinatra. "It's a plot



Sheik's peer: Vincent Spano and Rosanna Arquette in school

you've seen before". Sayles has admitted, "but usually the class has been erased, so that it's just Jane Allyson and Cary Grant; and although he may be her chauffeur, he's just as witty and educated or, in fact, smarter in some ways. Whereas in *Baby It's You* it's a guy who's not as educated, isn't going as far, and isn't smarter than she is."

Jill, in fact, progresses from high-school to Sarah Lawrence College, where she meets previous self-possessed waverer. Sheik ends up in Miami, washing dishes by day and miming Sinatra songs before indifferent night-club customers at night. Paramount, who agreed to distribute the film during the editing stage, were uncertain about taking the characters beyond their high-school environment; they wanted something more light-hearted, more

conventional. But Sayles - working for the first time with mainstream Hollywood backing - stuck to his conception, and finally shaped the film the way he wanted.

In the June Allyson role we find the rising star Rosanna Arquette, wonderful as Gary Gilmore's girlfriend in the American television version of Norman Mailer's *The Executioner's Song*. Sheik is played with immaculate narcissism by Vincent Spano, one of the youths in *Over the Edge* and *Rumblefish*. "The way I figure it", he says, "there's only three people in the world that matter - Jesus Christ, Frank Sinatra, and me!"

Baby It's You (15) opens in London on Fri at the Screen on the Hill (435 3366).

Geoff Brown

Openings

DREAMSCAPE (18): So-so science-fiction thriller about psychic projection and the manipulation of people's dreams, with Dennis Quaid, Max Von Sydow, Christopher Plummer, directed by Joe Ruben. From Fri at the ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (836 8881), ABC Fulham Road (070 211 101), Classic Oxford Street (636 0310).

BOLERO (18): For connoisseurs of dubious taste, the most eagerly-awaited release of the year - a paean of praise from director John (Swing) Derr to his wife Bc. Connoisseurs of taste changes take note: the film was previously known as *Bo-lero*, *Bo-Bolero*, and *Bo Derek's Bolero*. From Fri at the Classic Haymarket (839 1527).

GABRIELA (18): Cautious Brazilian Oscar contender from Jorge Amado's best-known novel, set in the state of Bahia early in the century. Marcello Mastroianni stars as the wealthy bar owner in love with his young employee, Sonia Braga; directed by Bruno Barreto. From Fri at the Classic Tottenham Court Road (636 6148).

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET. Covent Garden (240 1066). Tues-Thurs at 7.30pm. Ashton's comic masterpiece *A Wedding Bouquet* (words by Gertrude Stein, music and designs by Lord Berners) has its first performance of the new season on Fri and Oct 27 at 7.45pm. Lar Lubovitch's company ends its season at Sadler's Wells tonight. Another American company new to London, Tim Buckley and the Troubadours, appears at The Place (Tues-Thurs), and its solo musician, Gene T. Tranny, gives a concert there on Sun. They are followed (Fri & Oct 27) by two dancers from Belgium and Holland, Michele Ann de May and Roxane Huijman. Florence-based American choreographer Katie Duck and her Group-O-Jazz at Leicester, and Michael Clark & Company at Lancaster and Manchester.

Selected

WHERE THE GREEN ANTS DREAM (15). Chelsea Cinema (351 3742). Werner Herzog's new film, shot in English in Australia, describes the confrontation between Aboriginal culture and the forces of modern industry - a familiar subject lifted out of the rut by visual surprises and eccentric humour.

TYNESIDE FILM FESTIVAL. Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (0632 321507). The seventh edition of this adventurous festival is now underway. Forthcoming highlights include Miral Sen's haunting emotional drama *The Ruins* (today), Alan Ford's portrait of an aspiring Hong Kong actress *Ab-Ying* (tomorrow), the Tavener-Parrish documentary *Mississippi Blues* (tomorrow) and a compassionate video drama from Brazilian television, *Orphans of the Earth* (Wed). The festival ends on Oct 28 with a gala performance of Kuleshov's satirical extravaganza of 1924, *The Extraordinary Adventures of Mr West in the Land of the Bolsheviks*, with live music by Benedict Mason.

NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR (15). Odeon Haymarket (930 2238). Michael Radford's version of Orwell's totalitarian satire ducks the politics and never overcomes the novel's lack of dramatic appeal. It scores good marks, however, for the two lead performances (John Hurt, Richard Burton), and for conjuring up a vision of the future with an eerie 1940s ambience.

KAOS (15). Academy One (437 2891). Paolo and Vittorio Taviani's epic, majestic film based on Pirandello's collection of tall stories about bandits, werewolves, pickle jars, and other strange aspects of Sicilian life. The action occasionally madcap, but the imagery is magical.

LONDON FILM FESTIVAL: Runs from Nov 15 to Dec 2. Postal booking is now open for members of the British Film Institute only; public booking starts on Nov 9. National Film Theatre, South Bank, Waterloo, London SE1 (928 3232).

The information in this column was correct at the time of going to press. Late changes are often made and it is advisable to check, using the telephone numbers given.

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	Market rates dollar's price	Market rates dollar's price	1 month	3 months
New York	\$1.1885-1.2000	\$1.1910-1.1970	0.027-0.030 disc	0.04-0.05 disc
London	\$1.2745-1.2810	\$1.2670-1.2730	0.165-0.222 disc	0.48-0.58 disc
Brussels	73.90-74.00	73.85-74.00	3.80-4.30 prem	6.80-7.30 prem
Amsterdam	73.90-74.00	73.85-74.00	3.80-4.30 prem	6.80-7.30 prem
Frankfurt	73.90-74.00	73.85-74.00	3.80-4.30 prem	6.80-7.30 prem
Paris	73.90-74.00	73.85-74.00	3.80-4.30 prem	6.80-7.30 prem
Madrid	205.50-207.10	205.50-207.10	1.45-1.50 disc	1.00-1.05 disc
Geneva	205.50-207.10	205.50-207.10	1.45-1.50 disc	1.00-1.05 disc
Dale	110.10-110.20	110.10-110.20	2.15-2.20 disc	2.5-2.6 disc
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Yunnan	110.10-110.20	110.10-110.20	2.15-2.20 disc	2.5-2.6 disc
Sichuan	110.10-110.20	110.10-110.20	2.15-2.20 disc	2.5-2.6 disc
Chongqing	110.10-110.20	110.10-110.20	2.15-2.20 disc	2.5-2.6 disc
Kunming				

FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Loans at 13.5%

Home loans, as well as remortgages of £30,000 and upwards, are on offer from Canada Permanent Trust at the competitive interest rate of 13.5 per cent. Loans are based on a generous two-and-a-half times the joint incomes. Most lenders operate on two-and-a-half times the main earner's income, plus the income of the partner.

Further details from Canada Permanent, 1, Finsbury Square, London, EC2.

Tax advice

Three booklets on the tax treatment of married couples have been updated by the Inland Revenue. Husbands and wives with joint incomes above £23,794 a year should definitely get hold of *Income Tax - Wife's Earnings Election (IR13)*, as they could well save money by deciding to be taxed separately.

This is not the same as separate assessment where the tax bill remains the same, but tax is apportioned between the two partners in relation to their income. *Income Tax - Separate Assessment (IR32)* is the one to ask for here.

The third booklet, *Income Tax and Married Couples (IR31)* is a general explanation of how the tax system relating to married couples works.

All three are available free from local tax offices.

Home loan offer

Home loans of £40,000 or more are on offer at 12.25 per cent through the financial advisers Chase de Vere. Few building societies are keen to lend to these larger than average borrowers and, if they do, the going rate for money is nearer 14 per cent.

The only restriction on the Chase de Vere scheme is that the maximum loan is 70 per cent of the value of the property. Income multiples of up to two and a half times joint incomes are available and there is no restriction on the type or age of property.

Remortgages are also available. Details from: Chase de Vere, 125 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EA. (Tel: 01-930 7242).

Help at Docklands

Index linked mortgages should soon be on offer to homebuyers in London Docklands through the Building Trust.

"The low repayment mortgages which will be offered by the London Docklands Building Trust will enable local people to buy their own homes, sometimes for less than rent - and offer high returns to investing institutions," Mr Robin Ellison, manager director of Finance for Housing, which will manage the trust, said.

The Building Trust has been trying to offer index-linked mortgages for some time but has been hampered by technicalities which have deterred some institutions from providing finance. The

demand for index-linked mortgages far exceeds the available funds.

Mr Ellison added: "Many pension funds wish to invest in the Building Trust. Ours form of house price linked mortgage offers a high real return and excellent security, but some fund managers have reluctantly decided that they felt unable to purchase units in the Trust because they cannot at present be redeemed. We are pleased to be able to remove that objection." Mr Ellison has negotiated permission to redeem units with the Department of Trade.

Solent enterprises

Business Expansion Funds are set up with the aim of making money for their investors, and helping to promote new businesses.

A new BES fund with a special approach is the Solent Business Fund, which will invest in Portsmouth and Solent Enterprises and might appeal to investors who know the area.

Mr Paul Rhodes, chairman of the new fund and a former chairman of Southern Gas, said: "Acting within this spirit of helping the local economy, our management company has been set up on a non-profit making basis - the only major item of expenditure being the general manager's salary."

Details of the fund from Solent Business Fund, 24 Landport Terrace, Portsmouth, Hampshire. Tel: (0705) 861553.



David Rothberg

Homes and tax

Tax and the home is not a subject which immediately jumps to mind as a problem area. Most people have only one property and are well aware that they are entitled to tax relief on mortgage interest - and that is where the matter ends for many.

But the tax implications of home-owning can be complex and confusing. Are you entitled to two lots of mortgage interest tax relief if you are supporting two wives? What happens to your tax relief if you go to work abroad?

These and many other questions are answered in the *Alliance Guide to Tax and Your Home*, written by Mr David

Rothberg, an expert on personal taxation and partner in the accountancy firm, Slack, Rothberg and Noble.

Mr Roy Cox, chief general manager of the Alliance Building Society, which is sponsoring the book, said: "Home owners enjoy special taxation privileges in Britain. However, the relationship between taxation and the home can be complex and daunting for the layman. Few enjoy the benefit of personal tax advice from a professional accountant, and so we hope this new book will help to fill a gap in every home owner's knowledge."

The guide will be available in selected book shops, including W H Smith, price £6.95.

Lend and borrow

Investors in Grofund units, the newcomers which have done so well on the unit trust scene, are to be offered a new overdraft facility.

Holders of Grofund units can borrow on overdraft up to 75 per cent of the value of the units, from any Allied Irish Bank branch. Grofund is the unit trust arm of AIB. Mr Tony Fraher, a director of Grofund, said: "This is a notable benefit to unit holders as it allows investment of capital for growth while relieving the investor of the necessity to sell units to provide for expenditure which was not anticipated."

The Grofund unit trusts are relatively small and there are only 150 unit holders, but Mr Fraher believes that the

investment performance speaks for itself and with the overdraft facility now added, the Grofund trusts are an attractive proposition.

Of the three Grofund unit trusts launched in July, Grofund American and Grofund Japan top their respective sectors. Grofund European is third.

Details of the new overdraft scheme and investments in units are available from Allied Irish Bank branches.

Saturday broker

It is not just the banks which are opening again on Saturday mornings. Campbell, Neill & Co, the Glasgow stockbroker, has just started a telephone advisory service on Saturdays.

Mr James Hardie, a partner of Campbell, Neill & Co, said: "For an ever increasing number of people, Saturday morning has become a crucial time for dealing with a variety of family matters. The firm had been considering the need to provide a stockbroking service on Saturday morning and it has now taken the decision to proceed."

The office will be staffed from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm with a partner or senior member of staff on call to deal with queries. Apart from the telephone advisory service which will be run, there is a London office.

Further information from Campbell, Neill & Co, Stock Exchange House, 69 St George's Place, Glasgow G2 1JN. (Tel: Glasgow (041) 248 8271).

BANK CHARGES

£18 cheque 'too small to negotiate'

It is not everyday that you get a cheque for £18 returned because it will cost nearly that much to cash it. But that is what happened to Mr Ron Lucas, a photographer who frequently sells his pictures abroad.

"One such cheque from Germany doesn't seem to be worth the paper it is written on if the letter from my bank is anything to go by."

His cheque for £18.30 drawn on the Volksbank Mari was sent back by his NatWest bank manager with the one sentence comment: "It is too small to negotiate."

NatWest admits that it charges £3 plus postage to negotiate foreign cheques but blames the charges imposed by German banks which would be a further £8 or so.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

A wise move with granny bonds

Decision time is here again for holders of index-linked National Savings Certificates, better known as granny bonds.

Provided they are not encashed before November 1, the certificates held for a year or more will qualify for a supplement of 2.4 per cent on top of index-linking. Many holders may be tempted to take the money and wave their granny bonds goodbye. But would this be wise?

Anyone who invests in granny bonds is taking a view on inflation. In the late 1970s, when inflation was in double figures, the case for buying them needed little advocacy. The situation now is much less clear.

The inflation rate over the past year has been 4.7 per cent. The rate over the next 12 months is a matter of conjecture, though City opinion seems to be that 5 per cent is a fair prediction - possibly more if cost pressures in the economy start to build up.

The Government has promised granny bond holders a supplement of 3 per cent on top of index-linking for the coming year, though holders must keep their certificates at least until November 1, 1985, to earn it.

If we assume an inflation rate of 5 per cent, the prospective return on "grannies" over the next 12 months is therefore about 8 per cent, free of all rates of tax. For anyone paying tax at above basic rate, granny bonds are a good investment. A 50 per cent taxpayer would need a gross return of 16 per cent to get a matching yield.

For basic-rate taxpayers, the situation is different. Higher returns are available from building societies, though it should be remembered that in most cases their rates are not guaranteed, and could come

down in the New Year. If you want certainty, the new 29th issue guarantees a return of 8 per cent over five years tax free.

Unless inflation really takes off again, non-taxpayers could do better elsewhere. The obvious alternatives are the National Savings Investment Account, now paying interest at 12 per cent gross, or the National Savings Income Bonds and Deposit Bonds, both paying 12.75 per cent. Those rates are variable, but it is in the Government's interest to keep them competitive.

There are three other points to note. New purchasers of granny bonds, and existing holders adding to their investment, must buy before the end of this month to secure the full 3 per cent supplement for 1984-85.

The Government has promised to pay at least three further annual supplements, the details of which will be announced each summer. People who bought the first granny bonds in 1975 will get a further bonus of 4 per cent from next June on the 10th anniversary of purchase. This will be based on the full fifth anniversary value. Index-linked certificates attract a bonus of 4 per cent of purchase price after five years, and that is added to the capital value at that point.

These bonuses, at five and 10 years, are thrown in as a sweetener. Holders whose certificates are coming up to their fifth or 10th anniversary should keep in mind the loss of bonus if they encash before these dates.

Although granny bonds may have lost some of their earlier charms, they are not yet to be written off.

Harry Powell

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Air Florida refunds grounded

Hundreds of holidaymakers who bought Air Florida tickets to the United States last summer are still awaiting refunds following the collapse of the airline, despite the fact that they purchased an insurance policy against just such an eventuality.

Mr Adair, Cathcart, a reader of *The Times* from Farnham, Surrey, took his family of four for what he called "a really fabulous trip" in July. It is just as well they really enjoyed themselves because he appears to have paid twice over. Mr Cathcart spent £1,596 on tour Air Florida tickets to Orlando. Days before departure the airline collapsed.

Mr Cathcart had also bought an insurance policy, the Travel Failure Plan which he believed protected him. When his travel agent suggested he buy some Pan Am tickets instead - another £1,500 or so - because he would be reimbursed for Air Florida on the insurance, he agreed and off the family went.

The trouble started when he came back and tried to claim for the Air Florida tickets on the insurance. The policy was underwritten by the Insurance Corporation of Ireland, a subsidiary of Allied Irish Banks. And, quite simply, it will not pay up. The Insurance Corporation of Ireland's London manager, Mr Colin Yellow, says: "The Travel Failure Plan states that the insurance covers cases where a carrier goes bankrupt or into liquidation. Air Florida has not done either. We have no obligation to pay at the moment."

Mr Yellow is technically, right. Air Florida, which collapsed last June, has sought protection from its creditors under Chapter Eleven, a US concept that enables companies in difficulties to have a moratorium on their debts while they



Adair Cathcart: paid twice for Florida trip

sort out their affairs. There is no equivalent in British law, and while Air Florida continues to be in this state of limbo the Insurance Corporation of Ireland says it has no obligation to pay Mr Cathcart and the hundreds like him for their worthless Air Florida tickets.

Mr Cathcart says: "The plane did not fly and I thought I was insured against this. I bought the policy as part of the deal in good faith and I want my money."

Meanwhile, Air Florida's future is still in the balance. But it does not look as if it is going to be bankrupt. Another US airline, Midway Express, has bought part of Air Florida's assets and some of its planes have taken to the skies again. In

the US courts a judge has agreed to Air Florida's request to resume business provided the company's creditors are given preferential treatment.

Mr Yellow says: "We are not sure whether this jurisdiction applies to British ticket holders. We are contemplating trying to help them launch some kind of legal action against Air Florida in the US courts. We will try to come to some sort of conclusion in the next 10 days."

What must be particularly galling for more than 250 holidaymakers believed by the Insurance Corporation of Ireland to be affected, is the fact that other Air Florida ticket holders, who bought insurance policies with Abtaure, the recommended policy of the

Association of British Travel Agents, have been paid in full.

A spokesman for ABTA said: "We took the view that they should be paid because although technically the airline was not declared bankrupt the fact is that there was a financial collapse and those planes did not fly. We looked at the spirit of the policy rather than the technical wording."

Unfortunately for Mr Cathcart and other purchasers of the Insurance Corporation of Ireland policy that company does not take the same view. They have not been able to use their tickets and their only recourse - highly impractical - is to sue in the US courts.

Perhaps the most amazing thing about the Air Florida insurance problem is the fact that the Association of British Travel Agents has just changed its recommended insurer. It has just given the whole of the business - £10m worth of annual premiums - to the Insurance Corporation of Ireland.

Mr Yellow says: "The travel failure insurance we write for ABTA will cover Chapter Eleven situations - for the future." The question remains why Abtaure has seen fit to give all this valuable business to an insurer which is taking such a hard line on existing claims.

The Insurance Corporation of Ireland is a member of the Insurance Ombudsman which has the power to adjudicate contested claims and interpret the wording of policies not just their technicalities, but their spirit.

Mr Cathcart and everyone else in the same situation should write to The Insurance Ombudsman, 31 Southampton Row, London WC1 5HU.

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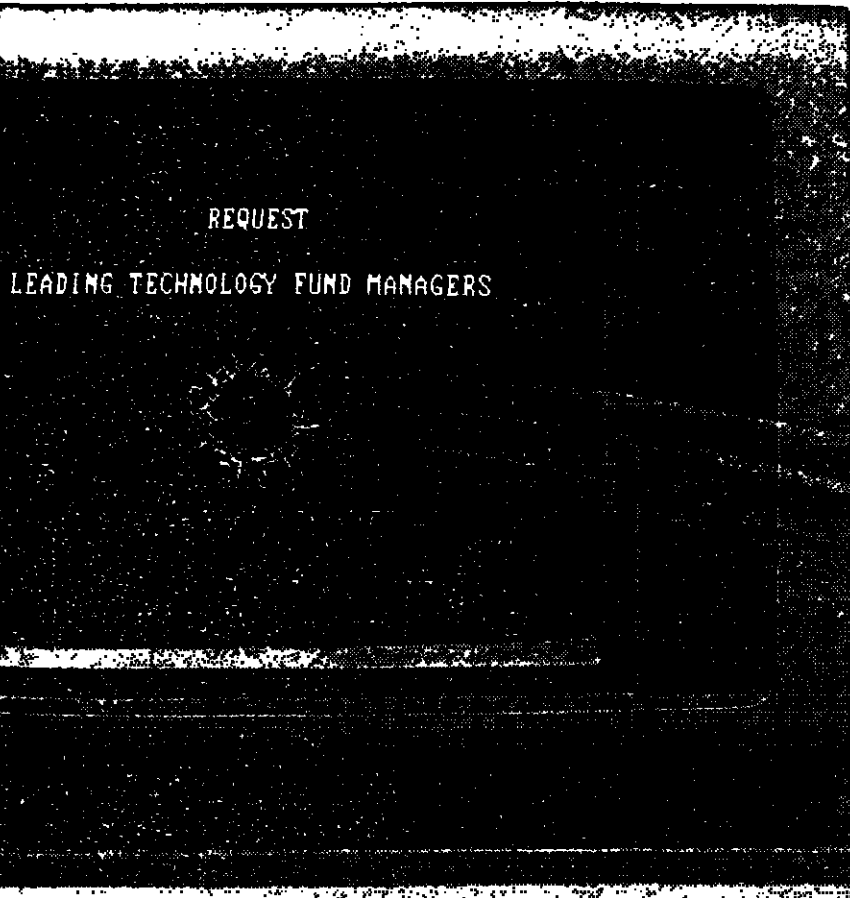
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A few major technological advances from the past decade.

Not all technological advances are scientific ones. Over the past decade the technology share indices have moved rapidly ahead far out-performing the three major world stockmarkets. And leaving long-term investors in technology with a very nice return.

A quick look at the table below will show you what we mean.

Index	% Increase over 10 yrs to 31.8.84
USA Standard and Poors Composite	+ 686%
Standard and Poors Composite	+ 131%
JAPAN Electronics	+ 500%
Health and Beauty	+ 601%
Market	+ 107%
UK Electronics	+ 180%
Health and Beauty	+ 120%
Market	+ 40%

Source: Datastream

That doesn't mean technology share prices have now peaked. We believe technology shares offer outstanding growth potential - particularly those we've earmarked for the new Fund.

The high-tech society of the future.

Existing technology has just whetted consumer appetites. The dramatic growth in demand for personal computers means that within 10 years electronic keyboards are likely to have reached over 70% of the US population. A feat the car took 70 years to achieve.

But more exciting - and potentially profitable - are discoveries still in the technology pipeline.

The revolution in communications, for example. Microcircuits, truly portable phones using cellular radio systems, optical fibres and satellites are all competing in fast-growing US and UK markets only newly released from monopoly.

New materials could bring us cars with ceramic engines in under 10 years time and new generation robots making them.

Companies in both Japan and America are moving towards new breakthroughs in computer technology. And the latest super computers processing 200 million instructions per second could soon be obsolete.

"Smart cards" - with their own built-in micro-processors - could soon make shopping with cash or cheque books a thing of the past. The cashless - but not profitless - society is just around the corner.

Plenty to look forward to.

The new Touche Remnant Global Technology Fund will be investing in all these areas with one aim. Out and out capital growth.

(The initial estimated gross yield will be just 0.1% p.a. and we recommend that you arrange for the income to be automatically re-invested.)

Initially, we will be investing in about 40 companies mainly in the US, Japan and the UK. But that won't stop us from buying growth stocks in any other country with potential. Or, if necessary, switching the majority of the fund into a single country. Our active management will be active.

When it comes to picking other people's brains, we've developed a leading edge too. The Berkeley Consulting Group in the US are experts in bringing promising new technology companies to market. Through our close links with them, our investment team is equally expert in selecting the best of these for our new Fund's portfolio.

Invest before 26th October.

You can invest in the Touche Remnant Global Technology Fund with £500 or more - and for investment before 26 October, 1984, units will be at the fixed offer price of 25.0p and thereafter at the current daily offer price.

Our technology team has prepared a free-colour illustrated guide to technology which will be

sent to all investors - and which is also available to anyone ticking the appropriate box in the coupon.

You should remember, of course, that unit prices and any income from them can go down as well as up.

But we think technology will be progressing by leaps and bounds in the next few years. And not just in scientific terms either.

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FAMILY MONEY

UNIT TRUSTS

Strong medicine for a bout of jitters

Being told to "sit tight and ride it out" is all very well, but when it is your money that is sliding downhill fast it becomes more difficult to take a sanguine view of a stockmarket that has just registered a record 27.9 fall in one day having dropped 15 points during the previous 24 hours.

With the gloomy prospect of a shutdown of all Britain's coal mines and the inevitable fear of a three-day week to follow, investors holding British unit trusts may be sorely tempted to cut their losses before equity prices recover any further.

But the professionals are adamant that now is not the time to panic. Mr Peter Hargreaves of advisers Hargreaves Lansdown admits: "It looks nasty, but at the same time anybody who sells at this stage must be absolutely crackers. Most of the managers will have marked their funds down to a bid price basis which means that you will lose money hand-over-fist if you sell now."

Many unitholders fail to understand how the offer/bid price mechanism works, believing that the spread between buying and selling prices is a constant 6% or 7 per cent. In fact, the Department of Trade allows managers to fix their prices anywhere within a range



of 13% per cent, but competitive pressures ensure that the quoted bid and offer prices are usually never more than 7 per cent apart.

What happens in practice is that managers slide this 7 per cent band within the overall 13% per cent range, depending on the number of buyers and sellers. So even if the underlying equities have not changed, it is possible that the selling price will be 6% per cent lower than the day before.

It is something that most professionals keep a careful watch out for, but most unitholders fail to appreciate. This is the point, Mr Peter Hargreaves of Premier Unit Trust Brokers is keen to emphasise. He takes the view that you have

to believe that the market is going to fall by at least another 10 per cent before it is worth going liquid. "The further away you are from the City, the easier it is to be phlegmatic. Although we are not particularly exposed to the London market, we would certainly not be selling at the moment. All the fundamentals are unchanged but the possibility that a falling pound could lead to higher interest rates."

"The market would take an increase in interest rates badly, but we don't think that there is much chance of a rerun of the Heath scenario. In 1974, there was untrammelled union power, lack of support for the government of the day, and oil prices were beginning to have a

disastrous effect on the rate of inflation. The conditions are entirely different today. Mrs Thatcher won't be tumbled on this one."

After the falls of the last few days we would expect some stabilisation. The market is basically a sound market, which has just got a bout of the jitters.

Other advisers are not at all keen to commit new money at this stage, however. "If you have new cash, don't put it in now," says Mr Kean Senger of Whitechurch Securities.

"In September I wrote to my clients and said it could be a winter of discontent. The news this week has been very bearish and I think the market looks extremely sick. A further fall must be on the cards and with the continuing labour problems it looks like a rough time ahead. Goodness knows what will happen if the power stations actually do run out of coal."

"The whole thing depends on the miners' strike. If that is settled, then there would be a good bounce in the market. But after that I don't see where it will go. All the spare cash that might have been available to push the market higher will be taken up by the British Telecom share sale."

Doubts have also been voiced about market direction by Mr

Jamie Berry of Berry Asset Management, who says: "For the best part of a year now, I have felt that the UK market has been overpriced and watched it steam ahead. In that respect I suppose I have been too early, but I think that there is a good chance that what we have seen this week is the beginning of a longer and more serious decline."

"I would not want to be a buyer of the market at the moment. The FT Index could go down as far as 750 and at that level it could be worth buying, but it all depends on what happens in the United States which I think will have a far more significant effect on the UK market than what is happening internally."

Throughout all this gloom and doom, Mr Peter Hargreaves offers existing investors the one comforting thought: "The only time it was right to sell out was in 1974, which coincidentally was also the time of a miners strike. But the circumstances were different then. In the last 10 years there have been a number of dramatic short-term falls, but in just about every case it has subsequently been proved right to hang on rather than bail out at the first sign of trouble."

Tom Ryan

NEW FUNDS

Triple offer from Sun Alliance

When a new unit trust group emerges it is anybody's guess whether the trusts will turn out to be a good investment, and how well the funds will perform.

However, if the new group has other funds under management, the investment performance of these can usually give some idea of likely performance of the new unit trusts.

On Monday, Sun Alliance is moving into the unit trust field with the launch of three funds: North America Unit Trust, Far East Unit Trust and Equity Unit Trust.

The equity fund is not new but it has been used as an "in-house" fund and not promoted. Sun Alliance is making three special offers to help promote

the funds: a 1 per cent bonus is being added to investments of £3,000 or more; there is a discount (presently 3 per cent) which will apply to future switches between trusts; and the usual minimum investment of £1,000 per fund is being waived so that £1,000 can be spread between the three funds, as long as there is a minimum of £250 in any one trust.

But do these special offers give sufficient incentives? Past performance is no guarantee of what will happen in the future, but it is probably the most reliable guide to what a unit trust can be expected to achieve.

Sun Alliance's Equity fund has not been a high flyer over the five-year period, returning a below-average performance as

the table shows. On the other hand, four of Sun Alliance's unitized insurance funds have done better than the average for their sector, in the case of the Fixed Interest fund by a considerable margin.

Considering that the two new Sun Alliance Funds - the American and Far Eastern trusts - are foreign invested, perhaps the most significant statistic is the performance of the International Fund which has done better than the average for its sector, although it falls well behind top performer, Gresham/Framlington.

If the new unit trusts perform in line with Sun Alliance's existing unitized funds then you will get a reliable return, but nothing sparkling.

Current value of £1,000 invested in unitized insurance company funds over 5 years to September 1 1984

Type of fund	Sun Alliance fund	Best fund	Worst fund	Average for sector
Managed Equity	£2098 £2038	Provincial £2340 Provincial £2738	City of Westminster £1406 Robert Silk £1356	£1890 £2135
International	£2269	Framlington £2887	Trident £1425 Abbey Convertible £1215	£2162 £1453
Deposit	£1437	Target £1863 Transinternational Life £1984	Property Growth £11431 City of Westminster £857	£1586 £1528
Fixed Interest	£1735	Transinternational Life £2091		
Property	£1634	Target Special Situations £2411	Brown Shipley Recovery £1326	£2367

*unit trusts
Source: Money Management

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For a copy of the Citifunds Prospectus, which is the sole available basis for investment,

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please contact Jane Hurley on Jersey (0534) 70334, or return the coupon below.

To: Citifund Islands Trusts (Investment Funds Limited) (Citifunds), PO Box 349, Green Street, St Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands. Telephone: Jersey (0534) 70334. Please send me a copy of the Citifunds Managed Currency Fund Prospectus and Application Form.

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The Investment Managers' objectives for all three Sun Alliance unit trusts are to select companies in sectors offering good prospects of longer term capital growth. Since these trusts are concerned with growth, all income is reinvested. The Equity Trust concentrates on UK companies and the other two trusts will actively pursue opportunities within their own geographical regions.

IS THIS INVESTMENT RIGHT FOR YOU?

Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. Although you can cash in your units without delay they should be viewed as a longer term investment, not really suitable for money at short notice. However, if you have a capital sum you want to grow, the Sun Alliance Unit Trusts could be the right investments for you.

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On investments of £3,000 and upwards a 1% discount is offered for the introductory period. We will automatically increase the number of units allocated to you by the appropriate amount.

Special Triple Offer - valid only until 9th November 1984

ABOUT SUN ALLIANCE

Sun Alliance, Britain's oldest established insurance group, has been managing investments and looking after its policyholders' interests since 1780. We manage funds worldwide of over £5 billion and have more than one million policy and pension plan holders in the UK alone, in addition to many hundreds of thousands more around the world. Your investment will therefore be in responsible and experienced hands.

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- The three Sun Alliance Unit Trusts are authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry and are controlled by Trust Deeds between Sun Alliance Fund Management Limited and Lloyd Bank Plc. The Trusts are "Wider Range" investments under the Trustee Investments Act 1961.
- For the launch period until 9th November 1984 the offer price of 50p for Sun Alliance North America Unit Trust and Sun Alliance Far East Unit Trust will be fixed. The gross price of units in Sun Alliance U.K. Equity Unit Trust on 10th October was 287.7p per unit. At this price the estimated gross current yield is 3.27%.
- Applications for units at the special introductory offer prices will be accepted on receipt by a contract note and certificates will follow in 4 to 6 weeks.
- There is an initial charge of 5% which may be added a rounding adjustment on investments in the three trusts and a yearly management fee of 1% plus VAT, based on the value of each trust and charged against its assets. The Trust deeds permit the charges to be increased to a maximum of 6% and 1.5% respectively, subject to three months' notice, but there is no current intention of doing so.
- Remuneration is paid to qualified intermediaries; details are available on request.
- You may sell your units at any time for the bid price ruling on receipt of your requested Unit Certificates. You will normally receive payments within seven days.
- You will not be liable for Capital Gains Tax if you sell your units within your year for the year as a whole, including other investments, adjusted for inflation where appropriate, exceeds your annual allowance (currently £3,600).
- Distribution date for each trust is the last day of February. Annual Reports are sent to unit holders.
- Management Sun Alliance Fund Management Limited (Members of the Unit Trust Association), Sun Alliance House, North Street, Hove, West Sussex BN1 1RT. Telephone 0403 64141. Registered in England No. 954661. Registered Office: 1 Broadchurch Lane, LONDON EC2M 2LQ.
- Trustee: Lloyd Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

Japan
A new unit trust, from established experts in this highly rewarding market.

The objective of the Fund will be capital growth, and it is anticipated that income and distributions will be small. As always, investors should remember that the price of Units can go down as well as up. To take advantage of this offer of Units, please complete the coupon below, and send it with your cheque in the address indicated.

BG Japan Unit Trust

To: Baillie Gifford & Co Ltd, 3 Clerkenwell Street, Edinburgh EH1 6NY. Dealers Tel: 01 223 1184.

I/We wish to invest in new units in BG Japan Unit Trust to the value of £ _____

I/We enclose a cheque payable to Baillie Gifford & Co Ltd, minimum £250 to be invested in units, as shown above at the offer price ruling on receipt of applications.

☐ Tick box for measurement of income.

BLACK CAPITAL MANAGEMENT
Name: Mr/Ms/Mrs _____
Residence: _____
Occupation: _____
Address: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

General Information
The Trust is a UK authorised unit trust and a "wider range" investment under the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Under provisions contained in the Trust Deed, The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, holds all investments and cash on behalf of unitholders. The Trust Deed is available for inspection at the Managers' office, 3 Clerkenwell Street, Edinburgh EH1 6NY, during normal business hours. The Trust Deed permits the Managers to transfer or purchase Units (all options are subject to the Trust Deed) and to sell Units (all options are subject to the Trust Deed) and to sell Units (all options are subject to the Trust Deed) and to sell Units (all options are subject to the Trust Deed).

DISCOUNT ON LARGE INVESTMENTS

NORTH AMERICA UNIT TRUST
Fixed Price

FAR EAST UNIT TRUST
Fixed Price

U.K. EQUITY UNIT TRUST
Current Price

OFFER 1. Fixed Prices
We are fixing the price of Sun Alliance North America and Far East units at 50p for the introductory period.

OFFER 2. Minimum Investment Waived
The normal minimum investment of £1,000 per Sun Alliance Trust is waived for this special offer period to allow a minimum of £1,000 to be spread across any selection from the three Trusts. For each Trust you select there is a minimum investment of £250.

OFFER 3. Discount of 1% on Large Investments
A 1% discount will apply on investments of £3,000 and upwards, during the introductory period.

To take advantage of this Triple Offer post your cheque, using the Application Form below, to reach us by 9th November.

SPECIAL TRIPLE OFFER CLOSING ON 9th NOVEMBER, 1984

SUN ALLIANCE FUND MANAGEMENT LIMITED
A MEMBER OF THE UNIT TRUST ASSOCIATION
To: Sun Alliance Unit Trusts, FREEPOST, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1ZA.

I/We wish to invest in Sun Alliance Unit Trust(s) in the amount(s) indicated below, and on the basis that units will be allocated in my/our name(s) at the Offer prices fixed for the North America, Far East and U.K. Equity Unit Trusts until 9th November, 1984, and at the price ruling on receipt of my cheque, for the Equity Unit Trust.

I/We enclose a cheque payable to Sun Alliance Fund Management Limited for £ _____ (minimum overall investment £1,000).

Sun Alliance North America Unit Trust £ _____
Sun Alliance Far East Unit Trust £ _____
Sun Alliance U.K. Equity Unit Trust £ _____

Total £ _____

I/We declare that I am/we are over 18.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

(On the date of your application - maximum number four - all must sign and attach names and addresses on a separate sheet of paper.)

MR/MRS/MISS/TITLE (SURNAME)

FORNAMES

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

This Offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TRUSTS

FAMILY MONEY

STOCK MARKETS

The extra cost of trading in shares from your armchair

Electronics have the power to make the private investor almost as shrewd as the professionals - but they can also erode all the profits.

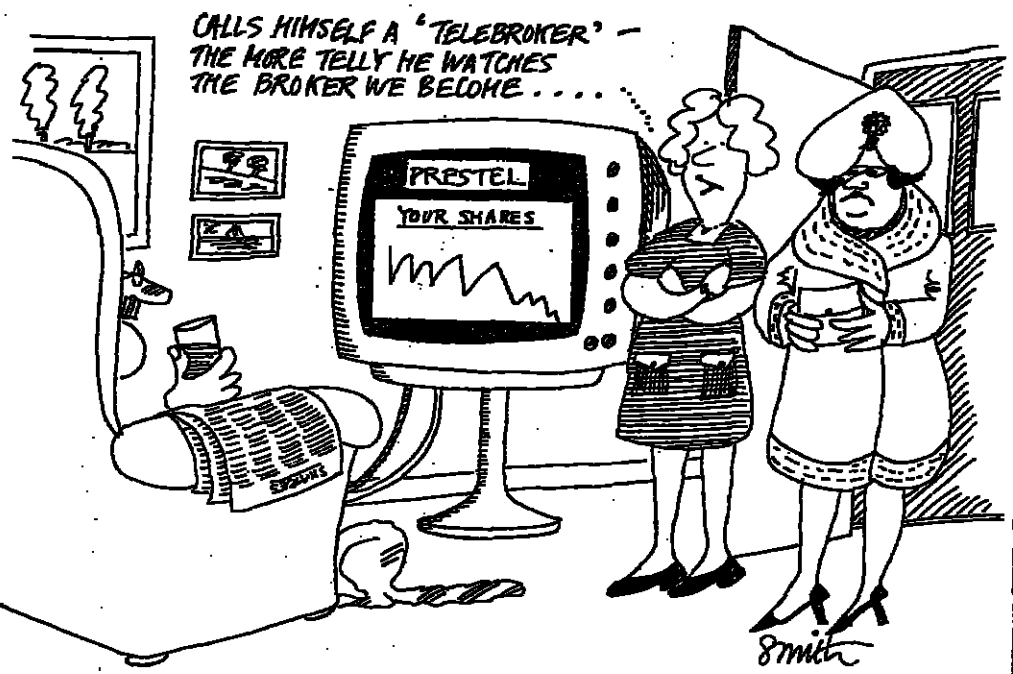
Plugging into Prestel is like walking into an electronic library and Prestel Citiservice has honed its output to provide tailor-made information for individual investors. But it is not cheap. Bear in mind that for a mere 20p a day £52.40 a year - The Times provides stock market and commodity prices, news and comment; and you can have it delivered to your door.

To receive Prestel you will need either a special television set, which costs about £700, or a micro-computer and an adapter at about £60 to £75. Then there is a quarterly charge of £5 for domestic users, or £16.50 for business users, a charge for using the computer during office hours of 5p a minute, the cost of local telephone calls - which are charged at local rates for 95 per cent of users - and lastly the charges for looking at the pages - although many pages are "free".

What can you get for your money? For 5p a page, showing about a dozen shares, you can get the stock market closing prices by seven o'clock every evening - and in the evening there is no time charge for using the Prestel computer.

But there are more sophisticated services. Level Two, which costs £18 a quarter, provides prices adjusted five times a day and Level Three, aimed more at the professionals, gives a continuous update throughout the day for £90 a quarter (plus all the other charges).

Once you subscribe to either Level Two or Three you can also use the Portfolio Manager which allows you to key in details of your portfolio - real or imagined - and keep track of its performance. The display will show the cost of the shares, unit trusts or gilts, the latest price and value of the holding and the percentage gain or loss. This costs 25p a page. Professionals are offered their



own more sophisticated information for updating clients' portfolios and building up a data base of prices which costs £50 a month.

Hoare Govett, the stockbroker, has embraced the electronic way of communicating with its private clients with unparalleled enthusiasm. It is providing a free Stockwatch service on Citiservice which will monitor the performance of a wide range of stocks, provide background notes and the

stockbrokers' conclusion - buy, sell or hold.

Hoare Govett's private clients can then place an order to buy or sell shares, via Prestel, with a minimum transaction of £1,000. You can ask the broker to buy "at best" or place a limit on the price you are willing to pay.

Telebroking, as Hoare Govett calls it, provides a first step to giving the private client a simple cheap service which will

come into its own when negotiated commissions for stockbrokers will mean a tiered output with clients being offered a no frills service at basic cost or the more traditional cosy chat with a stockbroker - at a price.

The big unit trust companies are also linked with Citiservice and you can instruct the companies to buy or sell for you directly.

The difference of £75.93 between a daily newspaper's cost for a year than that of Prestel (see table) could obviously be narrowed by using the computer in the evenings when there are no charges and telephone charges are lower (eight minutes for a 4.7p unit rather than just two minutes in the afternoon or one and a half minutes in the morning). But while we have left out cost of newspaper delivery, which is tiny, we have also ignored the hefty cost of buying or hiring a special television set or micro-computer and adapter.

COMPARATIVE COSTS			
The Times	Prestel		
20p six days a week	£52.40	4 quarterly charges	£20
		Citiservice Level Two	
		4 quarterly charges	£72
		Portfolio Manager	
		2 x 25p pages a week	£25
		Prestel Computer time	
		5 mins a week	£13
		Telephone charges	
		5 mins a week (afternoons)	£7.33
	£52.40		£138.33

Vivien Goldsmith

Money Market Cheque Account from Bank of Scotland

DO YOU WANT?

- High Rates of Interest
- No notice of withdrawal
- A cheque book to give you easy access
- A Bank of Scotland Visa Card for smaller purchases
- The security of a major UK Clearing Bank

AND ALSO

- Available throughout the UK
- No need to have another account with us
- No need to have a branch of Bank of Scotland near you

INTEREST RATE *
10.10% = 10.58%
APPLIED RATE * EFFECTIVE ANNUAL RATE *

WHAT ARE THE DETAILS?

Minimum opening balance **£2,500**
Minimum transaction **£250**

Interest is calculated daily and applied monthly. Cheques may be payable to third parties. Statements are issued quarterly (more frequently if you wish).

First 9 cheques per quarter are free of charge. Rate of interest published daily in the Financial Times and Prestel page 395.

Simply complete the coupon below and enclose your cheque. An acknowledgement of your deposit will be sent by return and your cheque book will follow a few days later.

* Interest rate quoted correct at time of going to press.

To: Bank of Scotland, Freeport, 38 Threadneedle Street, LONDON EC2B 2BB.
We wish to open a Money Market Cheque Account, I am/we are aged 18 or over.
(Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS)

☐ Please send me a Visa Card application.

FULL NAME(S)

ADDRESS

DATE

POST CODE

SIGNATURE(S)

I/We enclose my/our cheque for £ (minimum £2,500) payable to Bank of Scotland.

Should the cheque not be drawn on your own bank account, please give details of your bank(s).

MY/OUR BANKERS ARE _____ BANK

BRANCH _____

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

For further information tick box ☐ or ask operator for Freephone 8494.

BANK OF SCOTLAND
A FRIEND FOR LIFE

For joint accounts, all parties must sign the application, but only one signature will be required on cheques.

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Our personal
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From Banbury to Bournemouth, from Warrington to Worthing. Wherever you're located, good advice is right on the doorstep.

There are over 60 Thornton Baker offices around the country, all equipped to offer clients the personal service of a financial advisor with the back-up of a large national accountancy firm.

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We can advise on all types of investments.

Everything from school fees, through stocks and shares and unit trusts, to pensions and life assurance. (Our advice is totally without bias, since we're not tied to any investment companies or particular kinds of investment like many other financial advisors.)

We can also advise you on tax problems, another

important aspect of personal financial planning. So whatever your problem, advice is close at hand.

Return the coupon for more information or if you have a specific enquiry telephone your local office.

TO: Dept. TB, Gladstone House, 20-24 Lonsdale Road, London NW6 6RD.
Please send me full details of Thornton Baker's Personal Financial Planning Service.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) _____ (PLEASE PRINT)
Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel _____

Thornton Baker
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Member of Grant Thornton International

When the Unit Trust Managers
of the Year and one of the UK's top
Life Assurance companies
work in harmony...
you've got to listen.

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL
• Money Management Unit Trust Managers, 1983.
• Highly successful overseas unit trusts.
• Worldwide team of top-rated investment managers.

CLERICAL MEDICAL
• One of UK's leading life assurance companies.
• Outstanding record of returns for with-profits policyholders.
• Specialist expertise, particularly in UK equities, listed interest and property.

Two outstandingly successful investment performers have now come together to give you one of the most exciting investment opportunities of the year.

The Investment Portfolio.
It's a new way to make your savings work for you by investing in the world's stock markets, and it's managed by a combined investment team with a performance record and a worldwide expertise that are hard to beat.

Consider these track records.
Fidelity International, voted Unit Trust Managers of 1983 by Money Management, is one of the UK's fastest growing unit trust companies with a Japan trust that is the best performing of all unit trusts over the past one and two years.

Clerical Medical is one of the largest UK life offices. In the past 15 years, its with-profits policies have appeared in Money Management Top Ten tables for past performance no fewer than 32 times.

That's the calibre of management that will be handling your money in an investment offering a range of completely new funds that cover all the world's main investment markets. There's a very generous share exchange scheme, too.

Pre-launch offer.
From now until 1 Nov, as a special pre-launch offer, you can invest a minimum of £1,000 in the Investment Portfolio, and you'll be guaranteed units at a fixed launch price. After that date, the minimum investment is £2,500. In either case, at least 100% of your capital will be used to buy units, and you can spread your money over the full range of funds i.e. Mixed, International, Equity, Gilt and Fixed Interest, Indexed Securities, Cash, Property, North American, Far East, Special Situations, International Income and American Income.

But why should a unit linked investment like the Investment Portfolio be right for you anyway?

Wide choice and flexibility.
Because it enables you to invest in the exciting investment opportunities that occur in stock markets in the UK, America and Japan, together with Gilts and Property. All this through a flexible, unit linked investment which provides 12 funds to choose from. You can also make two free switches a year between funds, allowing you to take advantage of changing investment opportunities throughout the world.

You're unlikely to find a more attractive opportunity to improve your future prospects than the Investment Portfolio.

Or one that gives you, so clearly, the best of both worlds.

So find out more now by contacting your insurance broker or financial adviser.

If you prefer, phone for full details - call Geoffrey Jones on Bristol (0272) 290566, Monday to Saturday, up to 6pm. Or post the coupon.

NEW! - The Investment Portfolio

To: Geoffrey Jones, Clerical Medical and General Life Assurance Society, Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH.

Please send me further details of the Investment Portfolio

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Telephone Number (Home) _____ (Business) _____
My insurance broker is _____
For information on the Share Exchange Scheme, please tick ☐

Fidelity International **Clerical Medical**

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	BANKS DISCOUNT HP					
2	Burys					
3	Kleinwort Benson					
4	Midland					
5	Smith & Aubrey					
6	Nat West					
7	Bank of Ireland					
8	Cater Allen					
9	Somerville					
10	Provident					
11	BUILDING AND ROADS					
12	Marlow (John)					
13	SGS					
14	Western Rose					
15	Wilsons (Connolly)					
16	Meyer Int					
17	Tarmac					
18	Redland					
19	Leach (William)					
20	Marchant					
21	DRAPERY AND STORES					
22	Debenhams					
23	Engage Stores					
24	Graha					
25	GUS					
26	House of Fraser					
27	Stanley (AG)					
28	NSS Newagents					
29	Freemans					
30	Martin & Spencer					
31	Ward White					
32	FOODS					
33	Argul					
34	Assoc Dairies					
35	Assoc Fisheries					
36	Glass Glover					
37	Matthews (Bernard)					
38	Finch Lovell					
39	Br Vending (BV)					
40	Cadbury-Schwep					
41	Tesco					
42	Unigate					
43	© Times Newspapers Limited Your Daily Total					

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

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SHORTS

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Strong recovery

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Oct 15. Dealings End, Oct 26. Contango Day, Oct 29. Settlement Day, Nov 5.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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BUILDING AND ROADS

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Taking things to me to a head

Free Guest can pay off for the fillies again in Champion

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

As the Champion Stakes is sponsored nowadays by the Maktoum family, the ruling family of Dubai, it would be difficult to imagine a more appropriate winner at Newmarket this afternoon than Pebbles, who was bought by Shaikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum after she had won the 1,000 Guineas in the spring.

Trained with the Champion in mind since an injury prevented her from contesting the Child Stakes in July, Pebbles is thought to be back to her best by her trainer, Clive Brittain.

At her best, Pebbles would obviously stand an excellent chance, provided that she proved to be as fast as she has been in the past. She has already shown herself to be a mile, but in this instance, I just prefer another of her and son, FREE GUEST, who is at least proven over the distance, and winning at Yarmouth, Goodwood and Newcastle, that unwary victory in the Sun Chariot Stakes, over a country mile, was a real surprise. Free Guest among the best of her age.

Free Guest is trained locally and now she has an excellent opportunity to become the fourth filly to win the Champion Stakes in five years by Luca Cordero. He is also represented by Tolomeo.

Twelve months ago Tolomeo was runner-up to Comaratus in the Champion Stakes, but he was well below the mark in the fourth place, as it is, the fight for the lion's share of the money is between his talented young stable companion Pebbles and the champion of the Champion Stakes, Pebbles.

Raft, so impressive when winning at Deauville at the beginning of August, was rather disappointing when finishing unplaced in the Benson & Hedges Gold Cup at York shortly afterwards. Raft's explanation was that the York race was too soon after Deauville. But now that he is a fresh horse once again, Raft should give a much better account of himself, and I expect him to be in the shake-up.

Romildo, Luth Enchantée, Carriell and Palace Mischief comprise a strong French challenge for a race that has been won by 19 fillies, but that Free Guest, Raft and Tolomeo should prove too good for them.



Kala Dancer, the grey, holds off Law Society (right) and Local Sutor in the Dewhurst (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Kala Dancer silences big guns

By Michael Seely

The flickering flame of hope that keeps more than 6,000 small owners involved in flat racing burst into gloriously successful life at Newmarket yesterday. Kala Dancer, bought for 11,000 guineas at the 1983 Highflyer Sales, proved just too strong for Law Society and Local Sutor in a thrilling finish to the William Hill Dewhurst Stakes.

The vanquished first and second favourites, respectively the standard-bearer of the powerful stable of Vincent O'Brien and Dick Hern, on the other hand, had cost Stavros Niarchos and Shaikh Mohammed \$2.5m and \$2m a piece, at the Keeneland July auctions.

To call Ravi Tikoo's champion of the little man is perhaps carrying matters too far. The Kashmir-born tanker tycoon has been involved in the sport for more than 15 years and has owned such good horses as Steel Pulse, Steel Heart and Hittite Glory, to name but three group one winners. But he has now reduced his interest. "When Scobie Breasley was training, I had 105 horses, but now I'm down to eighteen".

However, Mr Tikoo's first Dewhurst triumph has certainly sharply focussed the spotlight of attention on the glorious ownership of the game. "The whole thing has become stupidly expensive", Kala Dancer's owner continued. "I wouldn't dream of getting involved in the Keeneland nonsense. They still breed the best horses in the world in England and Ireland. So, I shall continue to buy British and I shall continue to buy at Tattersalls".

The race had reached its climax when Kala Dancer had to outpace the two big guns, Law Society and Local Sutor, by sending the Mill Reef Stakes winner clear over two furlongs from home. But both Kala Dancer's and Law Society's stamina came into play on the final climb to the winning post. Pat Eddery forced the favourite into the lead about 50 yards from the line, but the pair then swerved to their right and bumped Geoffrey Baxter, on Kala Dancer, who rallied close home to win by a head, with Local Sutor the same distance away third.

Carson was inclined to blame himself for Local Sutor's defeat. The reigning champion

jockey came storming out of the weighing room later in the afternoon and exclaimed to the world at large. "I hit the front far too soon. I made too much use of him. Unfortunately, I'd read all the journalists, who told me that Local Sutor needed seven furlongs. I must be an idiot". The jockey is too hard on himself. He had used his mount's speed to get first run on the opposition and the plan had misfired when the pair were just outstayed.

What an afternoon of triumph did this victory represent. Ben Hanbury, the popular and 38-year-old Newmarket trainer, said: "That's my first group one winner in 10 years of training. And I must say it's marvellous. I had about 60 horses at the start of this season, but I've only got 18 left for next year and I could do with a year full. Hanbury then went on to hammer home the lesson of his double at his trade by handing a double for himself and Mr Tikoo of nearly 11:51 when winning the Rockefellers Stakes with Kashi Lagoon, whom Bruce Raymond brought late on the scene to beat Charge Along and Lila Luing.

The trainer now sees both his winners as better prospects for the Derby and Oaks than for the 2,000 and 1,000 Guineas. "Of course I'll have to think about the Guineas for Kala Dancer, but will have to see how he's working in the spring".

The Guineas picture is now rather confused after yesterday's usually informative race. O'Brien said, "I've got my Mr Prospector colt, Gold Crest, to consider as well as a Law Society, who is bred to be a Derby animal". Hern, on the other hand, was delighted with Local Sutor. "It was a great race and we just got beat. The colt will now be trained for the Guineas".

It was a marvellous afternoon's sport. Both Mick Naughton and Michael Easterby pressed tolling blows for hard won Yorkshire trainers when winning the Fakenham Handicap and the Phantom House Handicap with Kingwick and Lucky Dutch.

Blinkered first time

CATERICK: 2.0 Absolut, 3.0 Mimi, 3.15 Brians Bridge, Gerard

NEWMARKET: 4.10 H Tech Boy.

NEWMARKET (Television: 1.45, 2.25, 3.0)

GOING: good. Draw: no advantage.

Take: double 8.0, 4.10. Treble: 2.25, 3.35, 4.40.

1.45 POLYCELL WILLIE CARSON APPRENTICE CHALLENGE FINAL

HANDICAP (2.5.25: 1m 20) (9 runners)

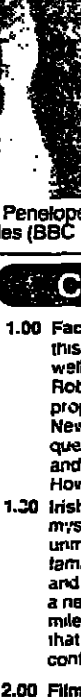
102	202140	BARRIE BABY (S) (Stacy) G 4-8-8	S Hodgson	7
103	482210	SHOCKED BAY (P) (Rohan) P 3-8-8	S Dunlop	5
104	332100	QUALITAT PRINCE (D) (Quail) E 3-8-5	S Ryan	5
105	332100	QUALITAT PRINCE (D) (Quail) E 3-8-5	S Ryan	5
106	332100	QUALITAT PRINCE (D) (Quail) E 3-8-5	S Ryan	5
107	332100	QUALITAT PRINCE (D) (Quail) E 3-8-5	S Ryan	5
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109	332100	QUALITAT PRINCE (D) (Quail) E 3-8-5	S Ryan	5
110	332100	QUALITAT PRINCE (D) (Quail) E 3-8-5	S Ryan	5

15.8 High Pitched, 100-30 Blue Boy, 4-2 Maudie, 6 Barre Baby, 8 Qualitat Prince, 10 Kid 'N, 16 others.

FORM: BARRIE BABY (8-2) started on near fresh to be about 3 1/2 fms of 34 to Layen (8-7) in the 1000 Guineas, Oct 2, 1984, good. Oct 3, 1984, good. Oct 4, 1984, good. Oct 5, 1984, good. Oct 6, 1984, good. Oct 7, 1984, good. Oct 8, 1984, good. Oct 9, 1984, good. Oct 10, 1984, good. Oct 11, 1984, good. Oct 12, 1984, good. Oct 13, 1984, good. Oct 14, 1984, good. Oct 15, 1984, good. Oct 16, 1984, good. Oct 17, 1984, good. Oct 18, 1984, good. Oct 19, 1984, good. Oct 20, 1984, good. Oct 21, 1984, good. Oct 22, 1984, good. Oct 23, 1984, good. Oct 24, 1984, good. Oct 25, 1984, good. Oct 26, 1984, good. Oct 27, 1984, good. Oct 28, 1984, good. Oct 29, 1984, good. Oct 30, 1984, good. Oct 31, 1984, good. Oct 32, 1984, good. Oct 33, 1984, good. Oct 34, 1984, good. Oct 35, 1984, good. Oct 36, 1984, good. Oct 37, 1984, good. Oct 38, 1984, good. Oct 39, 1984, good. Oct 40, 1984, good. Oct 41, 1984, good. Oct 42, 1984, good. Oct 43, 1984, good. Oct 44, 1984, good. Oct 45, 1984, good. 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Sunday

-ami



and Penelope Wilton in *Ever Circles* (BBC 7, 7.15 pm)

CHANNEL 4

- 1.00 Face the Press.** In the hot seat this week is someone who is not well able to look after himself: Robert Maxwell. The new proprietor of Mirror Group Newspapers faces the questioning of Paul Johnson and Charles Wintour. Anthony Howard is in the chair
- 1.30 Irish Angle** investigates the mystery of the County Kerry unmarried mother and her family who were accused of, and admitted to, the murder of a new-born baby found fifty miles away. They later claimed that the police forced them to confess.
- 2.00 Film: Hers to Hold* (1943)** starring Deanna Durbin as the wealthy socialite who goes to work on an aircraft factory during the Second World War. Directed by Frank Ryan
- 3.45 Six Centuries of Verse.** The second series of eight in the 16-part series presented by S. John Galsguard begins with the 'Romantic Pioneers' of the mid-18th century.
- 4.15 Book Four.** A new series begins with Hermione Lee talking to J. G. Ballard.
- 4.45 Karen Armstrong.** Part one of a ten-part series in which former nun Karen Armstrong discusses religious matters with a guest. Today she talks to Colin Urquhart, a leading British Evangelical missionary.
- 5.15 News summary and weather** followed by *Modam Rhythmic Gymnastics*. Highlights of the *Sixnight Sees International* from the Wembley Conference Centre.
- 6.00 American Football.** Highlights of the game between Dallas Cowboys and the Washington Redskins
- 7.15 Upstairs, Downstairs.** The First World War is coming to an end. James is still suffering from the effects of his wounds and is consoled by his father. James, himself elated that his proposal of marriage has been accepted by Virginia Hamilton.
- 8.15 Ancient Lives.** The fourth and final part of John Romer's series on the daily life of Ancient Egypt.
- 9.15 People to People.** Tsamelo: Place of Goodness. The story of a black South African family spanning four generations from 1970 to the present day.
- 10.35 Film: Night Train to Munich* (1940)** starring Margaret Lockwood and Rex Harrison.

Radio 3

the Nazis by an urbane British secret agent. Directed by Carol Reed. Closedown.

12.20 **Phantom** Closedown.

and Philip Martin (piano). The Piano Sonata: Song Cycle A Woman Young and Old I

5.30 **Documentary: Stephen Garmes's** portrait of Walter Rauschenberg is called *Crystal Visions*. R.I.

6.15 **BBC Philharmonic Orchestra** (Debusy's Nuages, Fables (nocturnes), and Strauss's Symphonic Poem Don Juan.)

6.50 **Goodman** (piano) plays Sonata No 4 in F sharp.

7.00 **Play: Goodwin** by American Pastiche, translated by D M Thomas. Part one. Music by Prokofiev, played by BBC

7.15 **Classic Pastiche** (conductor: Edward Downes). Starring Alan Howard as Boris, William Nighy, Jane Lapotnik and Robert Harris (r. Nietzsche at 8.00).

8.05 **Ben Godwin** part two, I.

8.10 **Stage: Esplan and Pershia:** Part one. Arnold Steinhardt (violin), Jules Eskor (cello) and Murray Pershia (piano) Britten's *Three Little Pigs* Op 65, Franck's Sonata for violin and piano I.

9.55 **Stage: Derek Halligan reads** *Refrain*, by Jim Arnot.

10.10 **Steinhardt, Eskin and Pershia:** part two. Mendelssohn's *Two for piano and strings*, No 1 in E Op 49.1

10.45 **Play: You Still Awake?** Edward Petherbridge and Emily Richard, husband and wife, read from Russell Davies's 'dialogues in the dark'

11.00 **Emily Gilels: Piano recital.** Debussy's *Surena: Pour le piano*; and Maurice Strakosky's *Three including Sonata* in D minor Kc 141; in F major, Kc 518; and in G minor, Kc 515.

11.15 **News: Closedown at 12.00.**

Radios 1 and 2 and World Service on facing page

CHANNEL As London except:

Starts 12.56pm Starting Point: 1.0m Y Young Big Special, 1.30-2.00m Lark, 2.00-2.30m Cartoons, 2.30-4.30m Fall Guy, 5.30-6.30m Return of the Saint, 11.10m Devlin Connection.

25am	2.00 Farming Outlook.
0-10.00	3.15 Extra Time. 4.00-4.30
	5.30 Election Great. 11.30

GRAMPAN As London except:
9:25am Professor
Unicef, 5.30 Sesame Street, 10.30-11.00
Once Upon a Time, 11.30 Man, 1.00pm
The World of David Copperfield, 2.00 Farming
Outlook, 2.30 Rick of the Seventies.
1.15 Return of The Saint, 4.15
Unicef, 5.30 Terraviva, 8.00-8.30
The World of David Copperfield, 8.45
2.30am Reflections, Closedown

SCOTTISH As London except:
9:25am Professor
Unicef, 5.30 Baby & Co, 10.00 Human Family
10.30-11.00 Sunday Services, 11.30-
12.00 Spread Your Wings, 1.00pm
The World of David Copperfield, 2.00 Farming
Outlook, 2.30 Rick of the Seventies, 4.15
Return of The Saint, 5.30 Glen Michael
Avalanche, 6.15 Knight Rider, 4.15-6.15
Unicef, 5.30 Terraviva, 8.00-8.30
The World of David Copperfield, 8.45
2.30am Reflections, 12.45am
Closedown.

